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CONFIDENTIAL.

(8186.)

F.O.
424

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

ASIATIC TURKEY.

[In continuation of Confidential Paper No. 7816.]

203

1902.

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Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. February 1903.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting Asiatic Turkey.

[In continuation of Confidential Paper No. 7816.]

No. 1.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 6.)

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, January* 6, 1902.

FOLLOWING telegram from Vice-Consul Anderson at Diarbekir just received :—

"The threatening attitude of the Moslems is causing great and increasing anxiety among the Christians of this town. Many signs indicate the possibility of grave disorders at the end of Ramazan or during Bairam, and my information leads me to believe that the Kurds in the neighbourhood have been told to get ready.

"The attitude of the Government is generally unsatisfactory, and open ill-treatment of the Christians is allowed to proceed unchecked."

I have to-day made representations to the Grand Vizier, and His Highness at once telegraphed substance of Captain Anderson's Report to the Vali of Diarbekir, instructing him at the same time to use the most stringent measures to maintain order and protect the Christians.

Representations to the same effect have been made by my French colleague.

No. 2.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 13.)

(No. 4. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 6, 1902.

WITH reference to Mr. de Bunsen's despatch No. 444 of the 16th ultimo, I have the honour to report that I have received information from a private and usually trustworthy source, confirming the complaints against the Government and Legislature of the island of Samos, which were embodied in the Memorandum of the 11th November last, received from certain Deputies of the Samian Chamber.

My informant states that the proceedings of the Chamber during the whole of its last Session were vitiated by the unconstitutional action of the four Senators of the island who took part in the debates and votes of the Chamber, as if they had been legally elected as Deputies, and that orders have consequently been sent to the Prince by the Sublime Porte to regard those proceedings as null and void, and to proceed to new elections.

Many complaints have been received against the Prince, who is said to have had no previous experience as an Administrator and to be open to corrupt influences. The Ottoman Council of State has been engaged, I am told, in investigating his conduct in connection with a recent offer made by a Belgian Syndicate to set up a gambling establishment in Samos. A bribe of 20,000 liras is reported to have won the Prince over to

supporting this proposal, which was further gilded by promises of large financial assistance to the Administration in the form of an annual subvention rising in a series of years from 8,000 to 48,000 liras, and of an undertaking to construct roads and railways, and generally to beautify the island and to render it attractive as a gambling resort.

The Council of State have reported strongly against this scheme, which will doubtless be disallowed, but I am informed that the growing interference of the Sublime Porte in the affairs of Samos, which has been rendered necessary by the weakness and inefficiency of the Prince, is tending to arouse still further the agitation engendered in the island by the concession of what is regarded as a larger measure of autonomy to the Island of Crete.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 3.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 13.)

(No. 7.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, January* 13, 1902.

CONDITION of Diarbekir: With reference to my telegram No. 4, of the 6th instant, Vice-Consul Anderson telegraphs under date of the 11th as follows:—

"There is now no prospect of immediate troubles and all is quiet, the instructions from the Grand Vizier having produced an excellent effect.

"The crisis may be ascribed to the action of the Vali, who reported by telegraph to Constantinople about a fortnight ago that preparations were being made by the Christians for an attack on the Mosques during Bairam. There was not the slightest round for this report by the Vali, but seven battalions of Redifs were held in readiness to come here at the shortest notice, ostensibly to protect the Moslems. Their presence here would be most undesirable."

No. 4.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 20.)

(No. 7.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 9, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 194, Confidential, of the 30th May, 1900, I have the honour to transmit herewith, to your Lordship, copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Adana, reporting that Bishop Kivork Yérétzian, who has been acting as representative of the Patriarch of Jerusalem at Constantinople, has been elected as Catholicos of Sis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 4.

Vice-Consul Massy to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 49.)
Sir, *Adana, December* 27, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the election of the Catholicos of Sis, in this vilayet, was brought to a close a fortnight ago by the nomination of Bishop Kivork Yérétzian, who has been acting as representative of the Patriarch of Jerusalem at Constantinople.

Of six candidates, this Bishop and Bishop Sahag Khalayan, of Jerusalem, were finally left in for selection, Yérétzian being then elected.

He knows French, is active, and likely to be a good man for the post, and is probably the best of the six candidates.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. H. H. MASSY.

No. 5.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 20.)

(No. 9.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 14, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 4, Confidential, of the 6th instant, I have the honour to transmit copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Marc on the state of affairs in Samos, together with the translations forwarded by him of the correspondence which has passed between the Prince and the Senators concerning the situation created by the participation of the latter in the proceedings of the Samian Assembly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 5.

Consul Marc to Sir N. O'Conor.

Excellence, *Samos, le* 28 *Décembre*, 1901.

AINSI qu'il est à la connaissance de votre Excellence le Gouvernement Impérial, considérant la dernière Assemblée illégale, par suite de l'entrée dans celle-ci, des Sénateurs comme Députés, contrairement à la Loi Électorale et aux Ordonnances de la Charte Organique, a ordonné le Prince Gouverneur de ne sanctionner jusqu'à nouvel ordre aucun de ses actes.

Cette résolution du Gouvernement Impérial a mis les Sénateurs dans une triste situation, et ils ont voulu à toute force obliger le Prince à sanctionner au moins quelques-uns des actes de l'Assemblée; Son Altesse leur ayant refusé suivant l'ordre qu'il avait reçu du Gouvernement Impérial ils ont pris le parti de lui adresser une forte lettre, ce qui a eu pour effet l'interruption des relations entre le Prince et les Sénateurs. S'il m'était permis d'exprimer mon opinion dans cette circonstance je dirais que tous les deux y sont fautifs, les Sénateurs en premier lieu pour avoir insisté d'entrer dans l'Assemblée comme Députés sans en avoir le droit, et le Prince pour les avoir permis d'y entrer, excluant ainsi les autres quatre Députés élus légitimement en remplacement des Sénateurs.

Maintenant il reste à savoir ce que le Gouvernement Impérial décidera, mais en tous cas, je pense qu'en admettant que la question de la sanction dont le Gouvernement Impérial s'y est déjà prononcé contre [*sic*] soit mis de côté, il n'y a que deux solutions: ou ordonner la convocation d'une autre Assemblée avec les mêmes membres sauf les Sénateurs; ou laisser tacitement passer les choses sans rien sanctionner jusqu'au mois de Mars, lorsqu'il y aura les élections générales, et convoquer aussitôt après l'Assemblée avec les nouveaux Députés.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) DENYS L. MARC.

P.S.—En ce moment le Prince m'a envoyé copie de deux lettres échangées entre les Sénateurs et Son Altesse, que j'ai l'honneur de transmettre ci-joint avec la traduction.

D'après ce qui paraît, les Sénateurs tiennent surtout à la sanction de leur compte rendu craignant beaucoup, dit on, le contrôle par l'Assemblée qui sera convoquée après les nouvelles élections générales.

D. L. M.

Inclosure 2 in No. 5.

The Senate to the Prince of Samos.

(Traduction.)
Altesse, *Port Vathy, le 7 Décembre*, 1901.

DE tout temps, conformément aux hauts Firmans Impériaux consacrant l'autonomie de l'Ile des Princes, après la clôture de l'Assemblée et même pendant sa durée, sanctionnaient et exécutaient les décisions de cette Assemblée hormis celles qui enfreignaient les droits de suzeraineté.

Pourtant aujourd'hui, malgré qu'un mois entier s'est écoulé depuis la clôture de l'Assemblée, nous et avec nous le peuple Samien remarquons avec surprise et avec un légitime émoi que votre Altesse remet la sanction et l'exécution des Décrets en question.

Comme ce retard de la sanction des Décrets abolit nos lois fondamentales autonomes, reconnues par de hauts Firmans des augustes Sultans et garanties par les trois Grandes Puissances. Comme parmi ces Décrets il y a aussi des Conventions avec des sujets Européens qui demain vont soulever des droits d'indemnité contre le fisc résultant de ce retard.

Comme d'une part le peuple Samien s'agite à juste titre pour cette violation de ses privilèges et d'autre part, il est injuste que le pays irresponsable tout à fait pour la non-sanction des Décrets et des Traités, subisse les indemnités des entrepreneurs étrangers, pour ces raisons, au nom de Sa Majesté Impériale notre auguste Souverain, sous la puissante égide de laquelle se trouve notre autonomie, nous protestons en notre qualité de Représentants du pays envers votre Altesse et la conjurons de sanctionner immédiatement les Décrets de la dernière Assemblée. En cas contraire, nous nous désistons de toute responsabilite résultant de la non-sanction et des indemnités qui seront demandées et nous nous réservons d'envoyer dans un bref délai une Commission à Constantinople, afin d'éclaircir par qui de droit si en réalité le pays jouit ou non d'une autonomie, tout en mettant au courant de tout ce qui précède notre mandataire, le peuple.

Soussignons avec respect,
Les Sénateurs,
(Suivent les Signatures.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 5.

The Prince of Samos to the Senate.

(Traduction.)

Port Vathy, le 10 *Décembre*, 1901.

VOUS savez bien la raison pour laquelle les Décrets de la dernière Assemblée n'ont pas été revêtus de notre sanction jusqu'aujourd'hui, et votre émotion et surprise pour la non-sanction ne sont point justifiées ; si en cela il y a des responsabilités c'est à vous que celles-ci en grande partie incombent, dont l'attitude et la persistance ont créé une question qui pourrait avoir de graves conséquences, et la solution de laquelle, sur la demande des deux parties de l'Assemblée se trouve en mains du haut Gouvernement de l'Empire Souverain.

Depuis que l'île a été érigée en Principauté autonome jamais les Sénateurs n'ont pris part à l'Assemblée comme membres de cette dernière ; les responsabilités résultant de la gestion des finances du pays furent, de tout temps, considérées comme un surcroît d'obstacles à l'entrée des Sénateurs dans l'enceinte de l'Assemblée ; c'est sur la base de ce sens qu'il a été ordonné la Loi du 28 Février, 1880, ainsi que les dispositions relatives de la Loi Électorale en vigueur, concernant l'exclusion de Sénateurs en activité, de l'Assemblée ; cette Loi a été sanctionnée par le Gouvernement Impérial, et c'est conformément à celle-là que nous avons émis l'Ordonnance No. 269, par laquelle nous ordonnons de nouvelles élections dans le but de vous remplacer comme ayant acquis la dignité de Sénateur. Pourtant, la dernière Assemblée sur votre demande et sur vos instances a admis l'explication innovatrice selon laquelle ni la Charte Organique ni les lois en vigueur empêchent l'entrée des Sénateurs dans la Corporation Législative du pays, et a décidé dans une séance préliminaire, que vous, dans votre qualité, pouviez légalement vous présenter et prendre part aux Conférences de l'Assemblée, et que vous n'aviez en rien perdu la qualité de Député, qualité que vous possédiez avant votre élection de Sénateur. La minorité de l'Assemblée considérant pourtant cette décision comme contraire aux dispositions des hauts Firmans Impériaux, ainsi qu'à celles clairement et formellement indiquées de la Loi Électorale, s'en est référé à la Sublime Porte, et par un Mémorandum elle lui a fait connaître la violation tout en implorant la réparation de la chose ; la majorité d'autre part, par un autre Mémorandum signé par les Députés, et par un télégramme de l'honorable Sénat a voulu soutenir cette décision de l'Assemblée comme légale auprès de la Sublime Porte sous le jugement de laquelle la question fut ainsi posée par tout le pays, c'est-à-dire à savoir si et jusqu'à quel point ce procédé de l'Assemblée est d'accord ou non avec la Charte Organique et avec la Loi Électorale sanctionnée par un haut Iradé, et si la composition de l'Assemblée, les Sénateurs y prenant part, était ou non légale. Le haut Gouvernement Impérial avant de prononcer son jugement, a trouvé

nécessaire d'ordonner de suspendre l'execution des Décrets de l'Assemblée en question, et pour cela par un télégramme Grand Viziriel nous a fait connaître sa volonté, le contenu du télégramme en question vous a été communiqué à temps, et nous sommes d'avis que du moment que vous êtes au courant des raisons de la suspension, il ne vous était point permis de rédiger et de nous soumettre votre note du mois courant. Tel est en peu de mots le développement et l'état de la question dont le soulèvement est principalement dû, à vous, Messieurs les Sénateurs, et si la suspension de l'exécution des Décrets ou bien si autre chose a résulté de cette question, la responsabilité si, en effet, responsabilité s'ensuit, tombe toute entière sur les auteurs.

Quant à savoir qui sont les auteurs, c'est la solution que va émettre le haut Gouvernement Impérial qui le démontrera, d'autant plus que c'est une question sur laquelle il a pleine compétence d'abord par la nature elle-même de la chose, et ensuite parce que le pays entier a demandé son jugement.

Nous regrettons de vous entendre dire qu'il s'agit de violation des privilèges du pays. Qui pense à une telle violation ? le Gouvernement Impérial qui a prodigué et qui prodigue à votre pays tant de bienfaits, ou bien nous, qui avons donné des preuves palpables de notre déférence pour les privilèges du pays, d'abord par devoir, et ensuite par affection envers lui et envers son peuple prudent et bon ? Vous protestez pour la suspension de la sanction des actes de l'Assemblée, mais de qui les procédés ont amené ce résultat ?

Est-il juste, est-il raisonnable que les responsabilités d'une action quelconque soient rejetées sur un autre que sur son auteur ?

Je crois, enfin, Messieurs les Sénateurs, que vous voudrez bien convenir de l'exactitude de nos remarques et que vous allez sortir de votre émotion puisque les privilèges du pays ne sont ni ne seront touchés par personne dans l'avenir ; j'espère aussi que vous voudrez bien attendre la décision du Gouvernement Impérial, laquelle quelle qu'elle soit sera toujours prise dans l'intérêt de votre patrie.

(Signé) MICHEL GRÉGORIADES.

No. 6.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 20.)

(No. 12.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 15, 1902.

AS stated in the Memorandum inclosed in Mr. de Bunsen's despatch No. 423, of the 26th November last, the Bagdad Railway Convention has now been fully worked out and awaits only the final Imperial Iradé.

A meeting between the representatives of the Anatolian Railway on the one hand and the Grand Vizier and Ministers of Public Works and Finance on the other took place last week, and the Convention agreed upon was to have been submitted to the Council of Ministers last week before Bairam, but the matter was postponed and the discussion in the Council of Ministers will probably take place to-day.

It is understood that an agreement has been reached on all important points except that of the manner in which the Government annuity or guarantee is to be provided. It is difficult to make an estimate of the sum which will be required. The Anatolian Railway, the traffic receipts of which have now nearly reached the point of being able to dispense altogether with the Government guarantee, required in its first working year (1900) some 10,000 fr. a kilom. to make up the total guaranteed amount of 15,000 fr. a kilom. If it could be supposed that the extension to Bagdad could be run under similar conditions, the total required for the first year in respect of 2,500 kiloms. would be 25,000,000 fr. But it can hardly be expected that out of a total guaranteed annuity of 17,000 fr., including 4,500 fr. for working expenses, the Government would incur so low a liability as 10,000 fr. a kilom. If, therefore, the whole line is to be opened to traffic at the same time, a sum exceeding 25,000,000 fr. might well be required for the first few years.

In the course of Dr. Siemens' negotiation in London it will be remembered that 1,000,000*l.* or 1,500,000*l.* were mentioned as the probable amount.

It is not necessary, however, to assume that provision will have to be made for the entire line for many years to come, for under the draft Convention the Company is empowered to construct the line in sections of 200 kilom. Possibly, therefore, a much smaller annuity will suffice at first, and the Government will be enabled to supply a considerable part of it out of the tithes assigned to the guarantee of the Anatolian Railway, but no longer required for that purpose.

In 1901 the Anatolian Railway, exclusive of the Konia branch, required only something over 1,000 fr. a kilom. out of the total guarantee. Next year it is thought that the traffic receipts will cover the entire amount. A large sum will thus be released. For the remainder it is believed that the Porte reckons upon tithes of other provinces and upon the increase in the Customs duties which is expected to follow upon the conclusion of new Treaties with the Powers.

The German element at Constantinople has not displayed much enthusiasm in pushing this negotiation to a conclusion, and it is doubtful whether the Deutsche Bank is in any hurry to commence operations. The motive power throughout has doubtless been supplied in the main by the German Emperor, to whom, in all probability, the scheme owes its origin. The dream of spreading German influence over large tracts of Asia Minor and Mesopotamia and of binding the west to the east by a system of German railways was of a nature to appeal powerfully to his vivid imagination.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 7.

Question asked in the House of Commons, January 21, 1902.

Earl Percy,—To ask the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether the Government had any information of the completion of the Concession for the Euphrates Valley Railway, of the terms of the contract, the proposed alignment, and the amount of, and security for, the kilometric guarantee.

Answer.

The announcements which have appeared in the press upon this subject have not yet been officially confirmed, but there seem no reason to doubt that they are founded upon fact. The statement made in Reuter's telegram as to the terms of the contract correspond generally with the information we have received, but we understand that a decision as to the revenues on which the kilometric guarantee is to be secured has not yet been arrived at.

No. 8.

Questions asked in the House of Commons, January 24, 1902.

Mr. J. O'Kelly (Roscommon, N.),—To ask the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether the Bagdad Railway Concession had been finally granted by the Turkish Government; and whether any exchange of views had taken place between His Majesty's Government and the German Government as to the selection of a terminus on the Persian Gulf.

Answer.

As I stated on Tuesday, His Majesty's Government have no reason to doubt the correctness of the announcement in the press that the Sultan has sanctioned the grant of the Concession. His Majesty's Government have intimated to that of Germany that they are in no way opposed to the scheme, in which it is probable that British capitalists will wish to take a considerable share. There has already been some discussion of the point referred to in the second part of the question between the two Governments, and no decision with regard to it will be come to without a further exchange of views.

No. 7*.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 22.)

(No. 15.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 17, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that my attention was called some time ago to the claim of a naturalized British subject, Mr. Pandeli Zolas, for losses at the time of the disturbances in Constantinople in 1896, which, though filed at the Embassy at the proper time, appears to have been omitted by inadvertence from the investigation conducted at His Majesty's Consulate in 1897.

Mr. Pandeli Zolas, who resides at Varna, where he usually takes charge of the British Vice-Consulate when Mr. Brophy is absent, is one of three children (the other two being Greek subjects) of M. George Zolas, a highly respectable Greek merchant of this capital, whose office in Galata was plundered during the disturbances. Amongst the property looted on that occasion was a quantity of jewellery, plate, and other valuables belonging to M. George Zolas' children, who had inherited it in equal shares from their mother. This property was valued by the Zolas family at £T. 3,425, and Mr. Pandeli Zolas claimed compensation to the amount of one-third of that sum, *i.e.*, £T. 1,141 66 p.

When my attention was drawn to this case, I directed Mr. Barclay and Mr. Eyres to examine the claim, and from the accompanying Memorandum your Lordship will perceive that they have passed it at 901*l.* 10*s.*

I have caused Mr. Pandeli Zolas to be informed of the result of the investigation, and that his claim, as reduced, will rank with other similar claims, and that when the necessary money is received by the Embassy he will be paid, *pari passu*, with the rest of the claimants.

I trust that this course will meet with your Lordship's approval.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 7*.

Memorandum by Mr. Barclay and Mr. Eyres.

THE claim of Mr. Pandeli Zolas, a naturalized British subject, has been carefully examined by us and admitted as well founded.

The claimant is, as your Excellency is aware, the son of M. George Zolas, a highly respectable Greek merchant, whose offices in Galata were looted during the disorders of August 1896. Annexed is a list supported by the affidavit of M. G. Zolas of valuables looted on that occasion belonging, in equal shares, to that gentleman's three children, of whom Mr. Pandeli Zolas alone is a British subject.* The total value of the stolen articles is estimated by M. George Zolas at £T. 3,425.

In the exercise of our discretion we have, while admitting the original accuracy of M. Zolas' estimate, assessed the present value of the property at 2,704*l.* 10*s*., of which Mr. Pandeli Zolas is entitled to one-third share, or 901*l.* 10*s.*

The affidavit of Mr. Pandeli Zolas that this sum does not, to the best of his belief, exceed the value of his share in the looted property, is also annexed.*

(Signed) G. BARCLAY.
H. C. EYRES.

January 16, 1902.

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* Not printed.

Mr. Gibson Bowles (King's Lynn),—Will the intimation to which the noble Lord has referred be laid on the table of the House?

Answer.

I will consider that.

No. 9.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 27.)

(No. 14.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 18, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 9 of the 14th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a report on the affairs of the Island of Samos, which has been furnished me by His Majesty's Consul-General at Smyrna.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 9.

Consul-General Cumberbatch to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 4.)
Sir, *Smyrna, January* 13, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a Confidential report drawn up by me from data furnished by persons intimately acquainted with the affairs of Samos but not residents of the island, and, therefore, not personally connected with any of the parties there.

These particulars have been procured by me in the course of my investigations into the claim of Mr. Provand against the Samian Government, and it has been suggested to me that they might be of interest to your Excellency as supplementing the reports of Mr. Consul Marc.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 9.

Report by Consul-General Cumberbatch on the state of Affairs in Samos, January 1902.

(Confidential.)

THE Island of Samos is at present passing through one of the periodical conditions of administrative "deadlock" which are of frequent recurrence owing to divergences of opinion arising as to the attributions of the Prince Governor on the one part, and those of the Senators on the other part, leading to conflicts in which the personal influence of the former is pitted against the usually preponderant powers of the latter, backed, as it generally is, by the support of the Assembly if in Session.

To fully appreciate the present position and its causes, it might be useful to recapitulate certain local events covering two years.

In 1900 the Electoral Law was slightly altered, and at the elections of that year a certain number of Deputies secured their return by advocating allegiance to the Governor of the day. Vayanni Bey, whose chief adherents were Messrs. Joannides, Levendi, Thalassinos, and Ghiorganides (these were eventually elected as Senators by the Assembly of 1900 at its final sitting). The "alliance" between the Governor and these leading men was for the purpose of securing a majority in the Assembly, which would be amenable to all the wishes of the Governor and his adherents, who would also secure for their friends all the Government "pickings."

Owing, however, to a reconciliation between the four above-mentioned leaders and another faction, the former, in the first sitting of the Assembly, showed unmistakable signs of a withdrawal from their private engagements to the Governor, who, greatly irritated at the

faithlessness of his quondam friends, formally protested, in an address to the Assembly, against their right—and that of some nine other Deputies whom he had also assisted in getting elected—to take their seats. He described them as bad characters and dishonourable individuals, because they had told lies to their constituents, and, therefore, debarred by the Electoral Law from occupying their seats in the Assembly. He furthermore gave them to understand that he would consider all the proceedings of that Assembly as invalid. He, at the same time, reported the matter to the Turkish Government.

The Assembly took no notice of his protest and proceeded with its business but, as he refused to sanction any of its acts, the majority addressed a Petition to the Sultan complaining not only of his action in this instance but enumerating a long list of grievances against him.

The Sublime Porte sent a Special Commissioner, Nazim Bey, with the ultimate result that Vayanni Bey was recalled and replaced by the present Governor, Michalaki Gregoriades Effendi, who was instructed to inquire into the proceedings of the Assembly and report.

The islanders were made to look upon the mere fact of the recall of their Governor as a recognition by the Sultan of the prerogatives of the Assembly, and they received the new Governor with every demonstration of joy.

Michalaki Effendi reported in favour of the Assembly, which evoked from the Sublime Porte instructions to sanction "en bloc" all the Decrees of that body.

This action of the Porte was interpreted as a proof of the successful assertion of its privileges by the Assembly, and further public demonstrations took place, in which Michalaki Effendi came in for his share of praise and gratitude; his power was, however, not destined to last long.

According to the Organic Statute four Senators are elected by the Assembly every two years to assist the Governor in the administration of the island. These Senators are elected in the last sitting of the preceding Assembly, and one month before the meeting of the following Assembly the Governor, as President of that body, issues writs for the election of four new Deputies to replace the Senators who, by their acceptance of their new appointment, *ipso facto* evacuate their seats in the Assembly.

In conformity with this practice and preparatory to the meeting of the 1901 Assembly in September the Governor, in August last, duly issued the usual writs for new elections in the constituencies of MM. Joannides, Levendi, Thalassinos, and Ghiorganides, who had been elected as Senators in 1900.

The elections took place in three places only, as one constituency had been induced by the Senators not to carry out the Governor's order.

The Senators wished to secure the approval by this Assembly of certain projects such as the Concessions for a National Bank to a French Syndicate, the Concession for the establishment of gambling saloons to a Belgian Syndicate, &c., about which they had already bound themselves as Senators and in the successful issue of which they were no doubt personally interested, not to mention the favourable examination and passing of their accounts for the preceding and current years.

They had reasons to fear the criticisms of the Opposition leader, M. Sofoulis, an able and independent young orator, backed by thirteen adherents. Consequently, they thought that, as they had no efficient representative on their own side in the Assembly, they would assert their right to take part in the deliberations themselves and thus secure the passing of their projects and accounts.

The Opposition leader objected to this and insisted upon the admission of the newly elected Deputies who had presented themselves. The Senators brought on a division on the matter which resulted in a vote in their favour, and they retained their seats. The Governor, though he had issued the writs for the new elections, as he was Constitutionally bound to do, had apparently approved the course followed by the Senators and was disposed to validate the decision of the Assembly, but he hesitated to do so in the face of the objections of the Opposition, who thus gained time to petition the Sultan, protesting against what they alleged to be a violation of the Organic Statute and Electoral Laws.

The Sublime Porte called for explanations from the Governor, who transmitted a counter-Petition signed by the majority of the Assembly, in which the right of the Senators to retain their seats in conformity with the decision of the Assembly was insisted upon.

The answer of the Sublime Porte was an order to the Governor to withhold his sanction to all the Decrees of the Assembly pending a definite decision by the Turkish Government on the point at issue.

In the meantime, the Senate, ignoring the addresses of both parties to the Sultan, addressed a sharp note to the Governor on the 7th December, trying to impose upon him

the necessity of sanctioning the Decrees of the Assembly and threatening to send a deputation to the Sublime Porte to explain matters.

To this the Governor replied on the 10th December, and his reply with the Senator's letter have been published in the local press.

Translations of these two documents have been furnished to His Majesty's Embassy by Mr. Consul Mare in his despatch No. 371 of the 31st December, 1901, and speak for themselves.

The only comment on their contents that suggests itself is the reference in the Senator's letter to the three Guaranteeing Powers and the pending Concessions to foreign subjects, which might be taken as a warning against the possible interference of the Governments of those countries. The Governor's reply carefully avoids any allusion to these points.

It will thus be seen that in 1900 the troubles were chiefly due to the irregular conduct of the Governor in meddling with the elections, and, as a matter of fact, trying to form a party, of which he was to be the leader.

In the second case, it is the action of the Senators which has caused the present difficulties.

The interposition of the Turkish Government in both instances has not been imposed upon the islanders either directly or on the initiative of the Governor, but was called forth by the action of Members of the Assembly in addressing the Sultan. There is no agitation in the island on this score, and if there were it would be unreasonable.

There are also no signs of jealousy of the privileges granted to Crete, though the creation of this feeling may be attempted by agitators outside the island, for whose actions the ex-Governor Vayanni Bey may not be quite irresponsible. What is, however, felt is the apparent disinterestedness of the Sublime Porte in its choice of Governors for Samos of late years and a wish that the Sultan may see his way to choosing a personage of higher administrative qualities, such as are more likely to be found in a European Prince than men like the two last Governors.

As to the "Monte Carlo" project, it is a fact that the representatives of a Belgian Syndicate, having squared the Senators and some of the more influential Deputies, have succeeded in obtaining a decision of the Assembly of 1901 by which they are accorded the right to establish gambling saloons. It rests now with the Governor to ratify the Concession when the definite decision of the Sublime Porte is given as to the validity of the claim of the Senators referred to above.

The Opposition, in the meantime, led by M. Sofoulis, is agitating against the Concession; but the Governor, though personally opposed to it too, is considered as likely to give way to the usual infallible arguments employed in the East. It remains to be seen whether the Sublime Porte will take any steps to prevent it.

The final decision of the Sublime Porte on the main point in dispute, retarded owing to Ramazan and Bairam, is naturally awaited with great anxiety, though it is anticipated that it will support the Governor in his interpretation of the Organic Statute, which, presumably, cannot be altered by a chance Vote of the Assembly. The consequence of such a decision by the Sublime Porte will have, for effect, to discredit the Senators in the eyes of the public and to strengthen the position of M. Sofoulis, the Opposition leader, at the next elections.

It is not expected that the Senators will resign, though their continuance in office must be injurious to public interests, seeing that practically they and the Governor no longer pull together. It is this unsatisfactory position that the Ottoman Government has to consider and, if possible, remedy.

(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Smyrna, January 13, 1902.

No. 10.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 27.)

(No. 17. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 19, 1902.

NEGOTIATIONS in connection with the Haifa Railway have been carried on intermittently since my return on the 24th ultimo.

I spoke to the Grand Vizier on the subject on the 16th instant. I said that the delay in settling this matter after the repeated assurances that had been given to me and reported to your Lordship was disappointing; that I had done all I well could to assist in

an amicable settlement and that in deference to the Sultan's fresh request for my good offices I was prepared to recommend Mr. Hills to accept 175,000*l.* without prejudice to his preferential rights, upon condition that satisfactory guarantees were given for the payment within eighteen months and 5 per cent. allowed on the capital in the meantime.

The Grand Vizier repeated these conditions and rather implied that they seemed more or less acceptable, though he asked me if I would be satisfied with £ T. 160,000.

His Highness reported my conversation to the Sultan, and, on the following day, Mr. Block was summoned to the Palace and requested to give me a message from the Sultan to the following effect:—

I was aware from conversation with His Majesty that he had set his heart on having the Haifa–Damascus Railway in his hands. He had therefore proposed to buy out Mr. Hills and give him the value of his works plus a gratification. During the summer the Commission had before it reports from the local authorities which gave approximately the amount Mr. Hills was justified in claiming, and the Sultan in deference to my wishes desired to terminate the affair once and for all.

The Grand Vizier had reported to His Majesty that after a conversation with me he recommended £ T. 170,000 to be paid at an early date—the mode of payment could be indicated within a week. This seemed to the Sultan excessive. He had calculated that £ T. 100,000 would have been a liberal indemnity, to which a small sum as "gratification" might be added.

He therefore appealed to me to press Mr. Hills to reduce his claim. He made this appeal with confidence, having a great esteem for me and believing that I was anxious to help him. He had never refused any demand of mine nor, indeed, of the British Government, and as his ardent desire was to acquire the line, if I and the British Government supported so exaggerated a figure, it would mean that it was not intended to meet His Majesty's wishes. But he hoped that this was not the case, and he looked forward to a favourable reply.

The First Secretary pressed His Majesty's request with much vehemence.

In reply to this communication I sent Mr. Block to Yildiz with the following message:—

Mr. Block was instructed to inform the First Secretary that I found it hard to believe that His Imperial Majesty was aware of the great efforts I had already made, in deference to His Majesty's personal request, to persuade Mr. Hills to reduce his claim from 300,000*l.* to 200,000*l.* Mr. Hills did so very reluctantly, and found difficulty in persuading his Company to accept his reduction, but agreed, in full confidence of a speedy payment, to the reduced sum as a satisfactory settlement of the whole question. On the 12th September last the Foreign Minister communicated to me an offer, on behalf of the Ottoman Government of 150,000*l.* in satisfaction of Mr. Hills' claim, with preservation of his preferential rights and a contract for the construction of sixteen transports. Mr. Hills definitely refused this offer. On the 16th instant I informed the Grand Vizier that out of deference to the Sultan's request I would recommend Mr. Hills to accept 175,000*l.*, reserving his preferential rights, and subject to the other conditions mentioned.

His Imperial Majesty would certainly understand how difficult it was for me with every possible wish to be agreeable to His Majesty to interfere further. This much, however, I was prepared to do, in order to show my desire to go to extreme lengths to meet the request His Imperial Majesty had been graciously pleased to convey to me, namely, to transmit to Mr. Hills a definite offer from the Imperial Government provided it exceeded the sum of 150,000*l.*, which had already been proposed to and refused by Mr. Hills.

The First Secretary took his message down in writing and communicated it to the Sultan, who replied that he was very gratified with the efforts I had made, and desired to express to me his high satisfaction. His Majesty would see the Grand Vizier and would inform me of the result. His Majesty's object in reducing the claim was to avoid public criticism in the sense that he was paying exorbitant sums for very small results, and he in no way desired to injure Mr. Hill's interests. Further, he wished me confidentially to know that the Foreign Minister had no authority to offer 150,000*l.*, and the First Secretary stated that His Majesty's further comment was to the effect that "this man will have to be dismissed."

His Majesty added that he hoped to see me next Friday, after the Selamlik.

As regards His Majesty's threat to dismiss the Foreign Minister, I have no doubt Tewfik Pasha did not make me his offer without positive orders from the Palace, and that he will be able to justify his action.

I ought, perhaps, to add that I have in my possession a letter from Mr. Hills, dated the 20th of December, of which I inclose a copy herewith to your Lordship, stating his willingness to accept 150,000*l.* in settlement of his claims. I also inclose a statement of the claim as made out by him in a loose and unbusinesslike manner.

I do not, however, think anything would be gained by informing Mr. Hills of the present negotiations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 10.

The Thames Ironworks, Shipbuilding, and Engineering Company to Sir N. O'Conor.

Dear Sir Nicholas, *Orchard Yard, Blackwall, December 20, 1901.*

THE Council of the Syria Ottoman Railway met on Tuesday last and discussed at great length the terms upon which they would be willing to make a settlement of their outstanding differences with the Turkish Government.

Eventually they decided to accept the advice you kindly gave me, and to authorize our agent at Constantinople to accept as a minimum (1) a payment of 150,000*l.* English (2) reservation of preferential rights to all powers specified in their Concession, in the event of the Turkish Government wishing to carry out any of the works mentioned in the Concession by other parties than themselves.

Since this meeting of the Council I have had an interview with the Turkish Ambassador and informed him that it was the wish of our Council that all negotiations should be carried on and concluded at Constantinople. I gave him the information he asked for to show that these negotiations could only be carried on by myself as representing the Syrian Ottoman Railway in the double capacity of President of the Council of Administration and Receiver appointed by the Court, and I further gave him a letter from Mr. Pilling recognizing this position, and undertaking not to interfere in the negotiations again.

They desired me to thank you very sincerely for all the kind trouble you have taken in this troublesome business. This I most readily do, and with best wishes, &c.

(Signed) A. HILLS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 10.

Account of Expenditure claimed by Mr. A. Hills on account of the Haifa–Damascus Railway Concession.

	£
Firman, fees, and sundries	1,000
Original surveys (2), plans, &c.	8,500
8 kilom. completed	40,000
19 kilom. uncompleted (1,130*l.* per kilom.)	70,000
Land and station land bought at Haifa	8,000
Watchmen and repairs for two years	6,000
Costs of journeys to Constantinople	3,500
Office expenses in London for eleven years	11,000
Consulting engineer's fees	2,000
	150,000
Value of concessionary rights	50,000
	200,000

	£
Interest at 5 per cent. for three years on 70,000*l.*	10,500
" " " eleven years on 48,000*l.*	26,400
	36,900

No. 11.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 27.)

(No. 18.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 20, 1902.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum.

Mr. Lamb furnishes interesting details with regard to some of the principal Kurdish tribes in his Consular district, whose internecine feuds often cause serious trouble to the Imperial Government, and are not without danger to the Christian inhabitants of those parts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 11.

Consul Lamb to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 24.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, December 31, 1901.*

IN accordance with your Excellency's desire, I have the honour to forward, inclosed herewith, a Statement showing the principal Kurdish tribes inhabiting the Vilayet of Erzeroum, together with the names of their Chiefs.

The three most important of the tribes therein mentioned, viz., the Haidaranli, Jellali, and Hassananli, do not, indeed, strictly belong to Erzeroum, but, as they partially overlap and are frequently involved in feuds with those of this vilayet, they cannot well be excluded.

A feud, for instance, which has for many years existed between the Haidaranli and the Jellali in reference to pasturages situated along the Persian frontier, has recently compelled the attention of the provincial Government, owing to encroachments of the Persian Jellali on lands, and even villages in the occupation of settled Kurds on this side the border, in the neighbourhood of Kizil Dizé.

Almost all of the tribes included in this list are frequently engaged in petty warfare with their respective neighbours or amongst themselves, but the causes of these feuds, being almost universally questions of personal jealousy or other private quarrels between their Aghas, or feudal Chiefs, are generally known only to those immediately concerned, and can with difficulty be established. Even the Ottoman authorities do not pay much attention to them, unless some special circumstances, or the implication of particularly wealthy individuals, seem to offer opportunities for turning them to account.

The Hassananli, who are mainly settled in the Melazghird district of Bitlis Vilayet, are the most turbulent and quarrelsome of all these tribes. The feuds between the late Sofi Khan of Deughneuk and his immediate descendants, on the one side, and various collateral branches on the other, are of more than thirty years' standing. At the beginning of the present year, a large section of the tribe became involved in a feud with the Jibranli of Varto in consequence of a difference between the Toroums on the subject of a horse. In this quarrel, nineteen men are reported to have lost their lives. Later in the year another section, following the Adjem-oghlou family, had a still more serious encounter with the Sibkanli. The grounds of their quarrel do not seem to be known here, but it most probably arose, as usual, out of personal jealousy between their Chiefs. The Sibkanli, who are by far the weaker tribe, are reported to have lost forty-eight men, against twenty-seven of their adversaries killed. Amongst the latter, however, was one of the Adjem-oghlou Toroums. The Hassananli would probably have taken a sanguinary vengeance upon the weaker tribe, had not the latter thrown itself upon the protection of the still more powerful Haidaranli.

The Ziriki are another tribe which is divided against itself. Rivalry between two newly-formed regiments of Hamidieh led to a series of encounters in the summer of 1899, in the course of which Mustapha Bey, the tribal Commandant of the 34th Regiment, was slain. Kouli Khan Beg, Lieutenant-Colonel of the 35th, was imprisoned for nearly two years in Erzeroum, but has recently been set at liberty,

and the partisans of Mustapha Beg are only awaiting a favourable opportunity to take their revenge on him.

In the course of last autumn, a dispute between herdsmen, crossing each other on the high road, led the Maksoudanli to make an attack on the Khormakli, a relatively peaceable sedentary clan in the neighbourhood of Kighi, when they were repulsed with a loss of six men killed.

An exhaustive catalogue of all the inter-tribal feuds and sectional squabbles, even in this vilayet, which is probably the least disturbed of any in Kurdistan, would be an impossibility, though any one travelling freely in the southern and eastern districts might largely extend the list. Obviously, only those of a certain magnitude become known outside the neighbourhood in which they occur. Those here cited are the principal ones now possessing a character of actuality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY H. LAMB.

Inclosure 2 in No. 11.

List of principal Kurdish Tribes in the Vilayet of Erzeroum.

Name of Tribe.	Number of Families.	District in which resident.	Nomad or Sedentary.	Sect.	No. of Hamidieh Regiment.	Tribal Commander.	Other Chieftains.	Remarks.
Haidaranli sub-divisions—								The Haidaranli, who are the most numerous and powerful of all the northern tribes, counting over 5,000 tents, belong properly to the Van district. But some of its sub-divisions spread over into the Bayezid Sandjak, and five out of the twelve regiments which it furnishes to the Hamidieh have their regimental centres therein.
Adamanli	500	Khamour and Ala Dagh	Nomad ..	Sunni	9th ..	Mehmed Beg ..	.. ..	
					10th ..	Mustapha Beg ..	.. ..	
					11th ..	Hussein Beg ..	.. ..	
Bashmanli	300	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	12th ..	.. ..	Mohammed Agha	
Zorava	800	Diadin and Tudji plain	.. ..	.. ..	14th ..	.. ..	Mirza Agha ..	
Dersimli—								The Dersim is a sandjak of Kharpout Vilayet, but these clans of the Dersimli inhabit the Kozlutchan Kaza of the Erzinghian Sandjak. Haidar Beg is a man of wide influence.
Arel and Salan ..	200	Kozlutchan Kaza	Sedentary ..	Kizilbash ..	..	.. ..	Yussouf Agha ..	
Cherikanli	500						Haidar Beg ..	
Shehkenideresi ..	300						Khalil Agha ..	
Jellali	2,000	Bayezid Sandjak	Nomad ..	Sunni	37th ..	Sheikh Salih Beg	Ahmed Agha ..	The Jellali are a very powerful tribe, but the greater portion of them are in Persian territory.
					38th ..	Ibrahim Beg ..		
Jemadanli or Jemaleddini ..	300	Alashghird ..	.. ..	Sunni, with some Yezidis	8th ..	Mehmed Beg ..	Maksoud-agha-zade and Hussein Agha	Another section (200 families) of this tribe is in Russia.
Jibranli—								
Baraxli	150	Varto and Bin Ghul Dagh	Semi-nomad ..	Sunni	31st ..	Ahmed Agha ..	Ibo, Mehmed, and Dervish Aghas, and Mahmoud Effendi.	
Bilikli	200				32nd ..	Selim Beg ..		
Mamanli	50				33rd ..	Ahmed Funi Beg		
Mamekanli	500							
Seidanli	120							
Junanli	370	Kighi Kaza ..	.. ..	.. ..	36th ..	Khalid Beg ..	Bazoghlou Amo ..	These are notorious robbers. The famous brigand, Dervish Tanas, is a retainer of Khalid Beg, Lieutenant-Colonel of the 36th Regiment.
Maksoudanli	400							
Khalilanli	300							
Kara Papak Sarnili ..	750	Antab Kaza ..	Semi-nomad ..	Shiah	6th ..	Khan Baba Beg	.. ..	These are refugees from the Terek. There are 27,000 Kara-Papaks in the Caucasus.
					7th ..	.. ..	Ali Agha ..	
Kerasourli	..	Kighi Kaza ..	.. ..	Sunni ..	..	.. ..	.. ..	
Kizzili	..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	..	.. ..	.. ..	
Shadili	..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	..	.. ..	Yezidji-oghlouler Ismail, Suleiman, Said, Reshid and Ahmed Begs.	
Patikan	..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	..	.. ..	.. ..	
Khormakli	..	.. ..	Sedentary ..	Kizilbash ..	..	.. ..	.. ..	
Kizkanli	700	Passinler ..	Semi-nomad ..	..	61st ..	Reshid Beg ..	.. ..	750 families of the Kizkanli remain in Russia.
Pissianli	200	Terdjan Kaza ..	Sedentary ..	Kizilbash ..	..	.. ..	Kassim-oghlou Abdur Rahman.	
Sipiki or Sibkanli ..	800	Antab	Sedentary or semi-nomad	Sunni	1st ..	Hussein Beg ..	Shemdin-agha-zade Hussein Agha.	
					2nd ..	.. ..	Ali Toroun Beg-zade Hussein Agha.	
					3rd ..	Hassan Beg ..	Hadji Yussouf Pasha-zade Mehmed Pasha.	
Sivganli	300	Passin ..	.. ..	.. ..	..	.. ..	Hassan Khan	
Zillanli	1,500	Alashghird and Passin	Semi-nomad	..	4th ..	Selim Pasha ..	Eyoub Pasha ..	400 families of the Zillanli are in Russia.
					5th ..	Hussein Beg ..		
Zimnikli	..	Kighi Kaza ..	Sedentary ..	..	..	.. ..	Iskender, Ismail, and Hadji Mahmoud.	
Zirchi	600	Tekman and Khinous	.. ..	..	34th ..	.. ..	.. ..	Mustapha Beg, Commandant of the 34th Regiment, was killed by Kuli Khan's men in 1899.
					35th ..	Kuli Khan Beg ..	.. ..	
Hassananli	1,500	Melazghird ..	.. ..	Sunni	26th ..	Ismail Beg ..		
					27th ..	Fathullah Beg ..	Riza Beg.	
					28th ..	Mahmoud Emin Beg.		
					29th ..	Tadjeddin B. ..		
					30th ..	Ayaz Beg ..		

No. 12.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 27.)

(No. 22.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 21, 1902.*

WITH reference to Mr. de Bunsen's despatch No. 418 of the 23rd November, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Bitlis, reporting that the Armenian revolutionaries who were besieged in the Monastery of Arakh have succeeded in effecting their escape.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 12.

Vice-Consul Freeman to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Bitlis, January 7, 1902.*

WITH reference to my telegram of the 21st November last, I have the honour to report that the Armenian revolutionaries who had taken possession of the Monastery of Arakh, near Mush, effected their escape on the 9th December. They crept out under cover of a dark and stormy night, and were close to the Turkish lines before their movements were discovered. When challenged by a sentry, one of them replied that they were the patrol of the 1st battalion. Another sentry called to his comrade that they were not the patrol, and fired, while the first "disappeared." The troops behind them sprang to arms, but the officer in command drew the men aside, saying that they could not follow on such a night as this, and allowed a free passage to the revolutionaries, who thus got clear away.

It seems to have been pretty generally believed by the Armenian part of the population of Mush that the band went into the Monastery by way of making a demonstration; but the official version is that they took refuge there from a body of mounted police, who were close upon them.

I understand that negotiations were carried on with the insurgents through the agency of the Armenian Prelate and others; and there is some ground for the supposition that they were allowed to escape on account of the presence of children in the Monastery. The Prelate, who was accompanied by police officials, was received by the leader of the band, one Antranig, of Sivas, who appears to have spoken very decidedly, in reply to the remark, that he and his men were ruining their own people. They wanted justice, he said, and they had taken up arms because they had lost all hope of obtaining it by peaceful means. They were determined to fight to the death. Khalil, of Sassun, had been killed by them on account of his misdeeds—and Antranig showed the decoration taken from Khalil's breast. "Why were innocent men put to death after the murder of Sherif Agha? Why were the people of Moghunk imprisoned and their village burnt?" Sherif Agha was killed by the brother of the girl whom he had wronged, and Antranig pointed to one of his men, who at once stood forward. "If they were promised a safe-conduct and a fair trial in the presence of the Consuls of four European Powers, they would come out."

The Monasteries of Arakh and of Surp Garabet are now, I hear, occupied by troops.

It is reported that after the escape of the revolutionaries, a Khoja, named Said Effendi, urged his hearers in one of the mosques to fall upon the heathen. The troops, he said, had been kept out night and day in the cold on the mountain side, but the authorities had accepted bribes and let the men go. The Khoja was arrested and locked up, but the irritation felt by Muslims has been fanned by subsequent events, and the anxiety of the Christians appears to have increased proportionately. A few days ago revolutionaries were reported to be in the village of Norshen. Troops and gendarmes soon arrived, and, according to an Armenian version, began by beating the village watchman, to make him say where the revolutionaries were hiding. The latter came out of a house, shot a Captain of Gendarmes and a Lieutenant of Infantry, and apparently made good their escape.

To show the present tension of feeling among the Armenians, their extraordinary propensity for fabricating news, and the difficulty of obtaining trustworthy information, I may add that the number of killed was stated here to-day to have been four officers and twenty-five men.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. G. FREEMAN.

No. 13.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 27.)

(No. 23.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 21, 1902.*

I HAVE received a message from the Sultan, asking me to give him any information which might have reached me concerning the state of Samos, to which the Russian Ambassador, I learn, has lately called His Imperial Majesty's attention.

In compliance with this request I am sending His Imperial Majesty, through the Chief Secretary, the short Memorandum, of which I have the honour to forward a copy herewith to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 13.

Memorandum.

THE information which has reached His Majesty's Government concerning Samos is to the following effect.

Although the Constitutional laws of the island provide that the Senators shall form a body distinct from the Assembly, the four legally appointed Senators insisted on taking part in the sittings of the Assembly during its last Session. The Deputies who had been elected to fill the places vacated by the Senators were excluded from their seats, and with the votes of the four Senators and of their adherents a majority was created, which not only shielded the Senators from an impartial examination of their actions in the administrative capacity, but gave its sanction to measures of more than doubtful expediency. Among these it will suffice to mention a scheme for turning the island into a gambling resort. The majority also carried a vote approving the illegal participation of the Senators in the proceedings.

The machinery by which the Government of the island is carried on has thus been completely dislocated.

The friends of good government in Samos are said to desire the maintenance of the Organic Statutes of the island, which have been infringed by the action of the Senators. Great power necessarily rests in the hands of the Prince-Governor, and it is most important that he should be a man of undoubted integrity and ability, acquainted with administrative affairs and possessed of a sound judgment.

Constantinople, January 21, 1902.

No. 14.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 27.)

(No. 24.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 21, 1902.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 12 of the 15th instant, I have the honour to report that an Imperial Irade, sanctioning the signature of the Convention concerning the Bagdad Railway, was issued on the 16th instant. I have not yet learned the precise text of the changes which have been introduced into this document since I forwarded an account of it in my despatch No. 290 of the 12th November. I am informed, however, that it mentions 24,000,000*l.* as the total of the capital required to complete the line, and that the kilometric guarantee is reduced from 17,000 fr. to 16,500 fr. a kilometre. The new Convention is also said to contain stipulations throwing upon the Company the expense of constructing and maintaining the Turkish military stations which may be necessary for the safety of the line.

I learn that in return for their readiness to sign the Convention, the Ottoman Government is endeavouring to obtain from the Anatolian Railway Company a considerable loan. It will be remembered that the Company rendered acceptable to Turkey its original demand for the Anatolian Railway Concession by a loan of 1,500,000*l.* in the year 1888, since which date it has, on more than one occasion, given financial assistance to the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 15.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 40.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 31, 1902.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 23 of the 21st instant relative to the Sultan's request that you would communicate to him any information which might have reached you in regard to the affairs of Samos.

I approve the terms of the Memorandum on the subject, which you transmitted to His Imperial Majesty in compliance with this request.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 16.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 3.)

(No. 30. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 27, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that what is presently known as the Bagdad Railway Concession was signed yesterday, dated the 21st January. I have obtained a copy from a private and confidential source which I inclose herewith, together with a Memorandum by Mr. Weakley noting and commenting on the changes which have been introduced since I had the honour of forwarding to your Lordship a copy of the draft in my despatch No. 390 of the 12th November.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

P.S.—As there is not time to make a translation, I beg to inclose a précis of the Convention.

N. R. O'C.

Inclosure in No. 16.

Convention signed at Constantinople, January 21, 1902.

ENTRE son Excellence Zihni Pacha, Ministre du Commerce et des Travaux Publics, agissant au nom du Gouvernement Impérial, d'une part; et M. le Dr. Kurt Zander, Président, et M. E. Huguenin, Vice-Président de la Direction du Chemin de Fer Ottoman d'Anatolie, agissant au nom et pour compte de la Société du Chemin de Fer Ottoman d'Anatolie à Constantinople d'autre part; il a été arrêté ce qui suit:—

ARTICLE I.

Le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman accorde la Concession de la construction et de l'exploitation du prolongement de la ligne de Konia jusqu'à Bagdad et Basrah en passant par, ou aussi près que possible, des villes de Karaman, Eregli, Kardash-Beli, Adana, Hamidieh, Osmanieh, Baghtcheh, Kazanali, Killiss, Tel-Habesh, Harran, Ras-el-Ain, Nissebin, Avniat, Mossoul, Tekrid, Sadidjeh, Bagdad, Kerbela, Nedjef, Zobeir, et Basrah, ainsi que des embranchements suivants, à savoir:—

1. De Tel-Habesh à Alep.
2. D'un point rapproché de la ligne principale à déterminer d'un commun accord

à Urfah, la Société ne jouira d'aucune garantie kilométrique de la part du Gouvernement Impérial du chef de la construction et de l'exploitation de cet embranchement d'une longueur de 30 kilom. environ, mais les recettes brutes de toute nature de l'embranchement appartiendront exclusivement à la Société.

3. De Sadidjeh à Hannekin.

4. De Zobeir à un point du Golfe Persique à déterminer d'un commun accord entre le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman et la Société, et en suivant un tracé qui sera approuvé par le Gouvernement Impérial, ainsi que de toutes les dépendances des dites lignes—à la Société du Chemin de Fer Ottoman d'Anatolie, aux conditions suivantes:

ARTICLE II.

La durée de cette Concession sera de quatre-vingt-dix-neuf années, à partir de la date de la remise du Firman et l'échange de la présente Convention; et cette durée de Concession s'appliquera également aux lignes d'Angora et de Konia.

ARTICLE III.

Ces lignes, prises dans leur ensemble, sont partagées en sections de 200 kilom. de longueur; pour ce qui concerne la présentation des plans et projets définitifs, le concessionnaire devra, dans un délai de dix-huit mois, à partir de la date de la remise du Firman de Concession et l'échange de la présente Convention et du Cahier des Charges (et après l'accomplissement des stipulations de l'Article XXXV) présenter au Ministère du Commerce et des Travaux Publics les plans et projets complets définitifs, après études définitives et conformément aux prescriptions du Cahier des Charges, des 200 premiers kilomètres. Dans les huit mois suivants il présentera les projets de 200 autres kilomètres, et ainsi de suite jusqu'à présentation complète pour la totalité des lignes; ces plans et projets devront être examinés et, selon le cas, approuvés tels quels ou modifiés, s'il y a lieu, dans le délai de trois mois à partir de la date de leur présentation.

Passé ce délai, si le Gouvernement n'a pas notifié sa décision au concessionnaire, celui-ci pourra considérer comme approuvés les projets présentés par lui, et il poursuivra l'exécution de ses travaux. Si le Gouvernement apporte à ces projets des modifications de nature à entraîner des retards de plus d'un mois dans l'approbation des plans, le délai fixé pour la construction sera prolongé d'une période égale à celle du retard causé par l'examen de ces modifications et l'approbation des plans.

ARTICLE IV.

Le concessionnaire s'engage à commencer à ses frais, risques, et périls, les travaux dans un délai de trois mois à partir de la date de l'approbation des plans et projets des 200 kilom. et à les terminer, de même, dans un délai de huit ans au plus tard à partir de la même date. Les travaux devront être exécutés conformément aux règles de l'art et aux prescriptions du Cahier des Charges ci-annexé, ainsi qu'aux dispositions des plans et projets approuvés; toutefois, en cas de force majeure, les délais d'exécution seront prolongés d'une durée égale à celle de l'interruption des travaux, à la condition que le concessionnaire en avise immédiatement les autorités locales ainsi que le Ministère du Commerce et des Travaux Publics. Seront également considérés comme cas de force majeure, une guerre entre Puissances Européennes, ainsi qu'un changement capital dans la situation financière de l'Allemagne, de l'Angleterre, ou de la France.

ARTICLE V.

Le Ministère du Commerce et des Travaux Publics contrôlera les travaux par l'intermédiaire d'un ou plusieurs Commissaires durant leur exécution, à l'achèvement des travaux et avant leur réception. Ce contrôle s'appliquera, de même, à l'exploitation et au bon entretien des travaux pendant la durée de la Concession.

Le concessionnaire déposera, chaque année, à l'ordre du Ministère du Commerce et des Travaux Publics et à titre de frais de contrôle, une somme de 270 piastres or, par kilomètre, payable mensuellement, et ce à partir de la date fixée pour le commencement des travaux jusqu'à la fin de la Concession.

ARTICLE VI.

L'entreprise étant d'utilité publique, les terrains nécessaires à l'établissement du chemin de fer et de ses dépendances, les carrières et ballastières nécessaires au chemin de fer et appartenant à des particuliers, seront pris conformément à la Loi sur l'expropriation, toutes les fois qu'une entente ne pourra pas être établie entre le concessionnaire et les propriétaires, pour l'achat de ces terrains. Le Gouvernement fera procéder à l'expropriation et à la remise au concessionnaire des terrains nécessaires à l'établissement de la voie et de ses dépendances, après que le tracé du chemin de fer aura été approuvé et appliqué sur le terrain. Cette remise sera faite par le Gouvernement dans le délai de deux mois.

Les terrains nécessaires pour l'occupation temporaire pendant les travaux seront livrés au concessionnaire par les autorités locales à charge pour lui d'en indemniser les propriétaires. Si dans les dits terrains nécessaires à l'établissement du chemin de fer et de ses dépendances, il se trouve des terrains dits Arazii-Emiriéi-Halié, ceux-ci seront abandonnés gratuitement au concessionnaire. Si dans une zone de 15 kilom. de chaque côté du chemin de fer, il se trouve des terrains dits Arazii-Emiriéi-Halié, et que dans ceux-ci se trouvent des carrières et ballastières, le concessionnaire pourra les exploiter gratuitement pendant la période de la construction, à charge pour lui de les fermer une fois les travaux achevés; dans le cas où le concessionnaire désirerait faire usage de ces carrières et ballastières pendant la période de l'exploitation, il devra se conformer aux Règlements régissant la matière et payer la redevance fixée à cet égard. L'occupation temporaire de ces terrains, durant les travaux de construction, lui sera également accordée à titre gratuit.

ARTICLE VII.

Les lignes seront construites à une seule voie; cependant les terrains seront acquis en vue de l'établissement d'une seconde voie. Aussitôt que les recettes brutes kilométriques atteindront annuellement le chiffre de 30,000 fr. le Gouvernement Impérial aura le droit de réclamer l'établissement de la seconde voie que le concessionnaire sera tenu de construire à ses frais.

ARTICLE VIII.

Le matériel de la voie et les matériaux, bois, fers, houilles, machines, voitures, wagons, et autres approvisionnements nécessaires au premier établissement, ainsi qu'aux agrandissements et augmentations en général du chemin de fer et de ses dépendances, que le concessionnaire achètera dans l'Empire ou qu'il fera venir de l'étranger, seront exempts de tous impôts intérieurs et de tout droit de douane. La franchise des droits de douane est aussi accordée pour la houille nécessaire à l'exploitation et que le concessionnaire ferait venir de l'étranger autant que les recettes brutes des lignes dont la Concession est accordée à la Société du Chemin de Fer Ottoman d'Anatolie ne suffirait pas pour couvrir le montant des garanties.

De même, pendant toute la durée de la Concession, le sol, fonds, et revenus du chemin de fer et de ses dépendances, ne seront passibles d'aucun impôt, et il ne sera perçu aucun droit de timbre sur la présente Convention et le Cahier des Charges annexé, et les montants encaissés par le concessionnaire du chef des garanties kilométriques, ni aucun droit sur les actions, les actions de priorité, et obligations à émettre par le concessionnaire. Le Gouvernement Impérial prendra les mesures nécessaires pour le maintien de l'ordre sur le long de la ligne et sur les chantiers de construction. La construction des nouvelles lignes exigeant de nouveaux capitaux, il est bien entendu que les porteurs des titres émis pour la construction et l'exploitation du réseau actuellement exploité, ne pourront pas être appelés à participer à la nouvelle entreprise sans leur consentement, et que les droits déjà acquis par eux restent intacts. Les décomptes et formalités concernant les recettes et la garantie kilométriques des lignes actuellement en exploitation, seront séparés, et ne seront pas fusionnés avec les comptes et les formalités des recettes et de la garantie kilométrique des nouvelles lignes à construire. De même les droits des capitalistes des lignes actuellement en exploitation seront séparés des droits des capitalistes des nouvelles lignes à construire.

Le concessionnaire prendra toutes les mesures nécessaires pour la sauvegarde en ce qui concerne la construction et l'exploitation des nouvelles lignes faisant l'objet de la présente Convention, des intérêts des anciens obligataires et actionnaires. En dehors de cela, la Société s'engage à ne jamais céder ni transférer à une autre Société

quelconque ni les lignes existantes de Haidar-Pacha à Angora et à Konia, ni celles à construire de Konia à Bagdad et Basrah. La Société sera soumise au droit de timbre pour toutes ses opérations autres que celles pour lesquelles la franchise lui est accordée dans le présent Article.

ARTICLE IX.

Les matériaux de construction et autres, nécessaires pour la construction et l'exploitation des nouvelles lignes ainsi que les agents et ouvriers, seront transportés seulement pendant la durée de la construction et sous la surveillance du Ministère de la Marine, sur le Chatt-el-Arab, le Tigre, et l'Euphrate, avec des navires à vapeur ou à voiles ou autres embarcations qui seront procurées ou louées par la Société. Ce matériel de transport jouira de l'exemption des droits de douane, impôts, et autres.

ARTICLE X.

Les bois et charpentes nécessaires à la construction et à l'entretien du chemin de fer, pourront être coupés dans les forêts des régions voisines appartenant à l'État, conformément au Règlement y relatif.

ARTICLE XI.

Aussitôt que le concessionnaire notifiera au Ministère du Commerce et des Travaux Publics l'achèvement des travaux d'une section, celui-ci fera inspecter les travaux exécutés par une Commission Technique nommée à cet effet et procédera à la réception provisoire, s'il y a lieu; un an après la réception provisoire, une seconde inspection des travaux sera faite par une Commission Technique, et dans le cas où il sera constaté que les travaux ont été exécutés conformément aux règles de l'art et aux prescriptions du Cahier des Charges, le Ministère du Commerce et des Travaux Publics prononcera, sur le Rapport de la Commission, la réception définitive. Le concessionnaire aura le droit d'ouvrir les lignes à l'exploitation par sections successives après leur réception provisoire. Les longueurs de ces sections achevées, à partir de Konia, d'Adana, de Bagdad, de Basrah, comme aussi des différents points intermédiaires, seront d'au moins 40 kilom. et devront aboutir à une station.

ARTICLE XII.

Dans le cas où le Gouvernement Impérial déciderait l'exécution d'embranchements reliant le chemin de fer faisant l'objet de la présente Convention, à la mer, en un point situé entre Mersine et Tripoli de Syrie, il ne pourra accorder la Concession des dits embranchements qu'exclusivement au concessionnaire, sous réserve toutefois de sauvegarder les droits déjà accordés à la Société de Chemin du Fer de Damas-Hama et prolongements.

Toutefois, si la Société, dans un délai maximum d'une année comptée à partir de la notification qui lui en serait faite par le Gouvernement Impérial, n'acceptait pas de construire le ou les embranchements en question, aux clauses et conditions de la présente Concession, ou, qu'ayant accepté, elle ne les exécutait pas dans les délais arrêtés entre le Gouvernement Impérial et la Société, cette dernière sera déchue de tout droit aux dits embranchements, et le Gouvernement Impérial pourra en accorder la Concession à des tiers. Le concessionnaire aura en outre le droit de préférence à conditions égales, pour les embranchements suivants:—

(A.) Vers Marach.
(B.) Vers Ainfab.
(C.) Vers Birédjik.
(D.) Vers Mardin.
(E.) Vers Erbil.
(F.) Du Diala vers Salahieh et Tuzkurmatli.
(G.) De El-Badj à Hit.

Ce droit de préférence pour les sept embranchements spécifiés ci-dessus, pour être valable, est subordonné aux conditions suivantes, savoir: Si le Gouvernement Impérial décidait d'une manière définitive d'accorder à des tiers la Concession d'un

de ces embranchements, la Société du Chemin de Fer Ottoman d'Anatolie est obligée, dans un délai de neuf mois, à partir de la date de la notification qui lui sera faite par le Ministère des Travaux Publics, de déclarer au Gouvernement Impérial si elle veut assumer cette Concession aux conditions acceptées par les tiers dont ils vient d'être parlé.

ARTICLE XIII.

Le concessionnaire aura le droit d'établir et d'exploiter sur la ligne, avec la permission des autorités locales, des tuileries, et des briqueteries. Les machines et outils destinés aux dites fabriques jouiront des mêmes exemptions accordées au matériel et outillages du chemin de fer. Le charbon qui sera consommé dans ces fabriques jouira de la franchise de droit du douane; ces fabriques feront gratuitement retour à l'État à l'expiration de la Concession.

ARTICLE XIV.

Pendant toute la durée de la Concession, le chemin de fer et ses dépendances ainsi que son matérial fixe et roulant, seront tenus dans un parfait état d'entretien et ce aux frais du concessionnaire; faute de quoi, il sera procédé, à l'égard de ce dernier, conformément à l'Article 16 du Cahier des Charges.

ARTICLE XV.

Le concessionnaire est tenu de se conformer, quant à ce qui concerne la police et la sécurité de la voie, aux Lois et Règlements actuellement en vigueur et à promulguer à l'avenir, dans l'Empire Ottoman.

Dans le cas d'interruption du service des transports sur une partie ou sur la totalité de la voie par la faute du concessionnaire, le Gouvernement Impérial prendra aux frais, risques, et périls du concessionnaire les mesures nécessaires conformément à l'Article 16 du Cahier des Charges, pour assurer provisoirement l'exploitation.

ARTICLE XVI.

Le concessionnaire aura le droit de percevoir des droits de péage, conformément aux tarifs du Cahier des Charges, à partir de la réception provisoire de chaque section du chemin de fer jusqu'à l'expiration de la Concession.

ARTICLE XVII.

Le transport des militaires des armées de terre et de mer, voyageant en corps ou isolément, tant en temps de guerre qu'en temps de paix, ainsi que du matériel et approvisionnements de guerre, des prisonniers et condamnés, des agents de l'État, des valises postales, sera effectué conformément aux prescriptions du titre V du Cahier des Charges.

ARTICLE XVIII.

Comme garantie de l'exécution des présents engagements, le concessionnaire devra, dans le délai de trois mois, à partir du jour où la promulgation du Firman de Concession lui sera notifiée officiellement, déposer à une banque de Constantinople agréée par le Gouvernement Impérial, et à titre de cautionnement, une somme de £T.30,000 en numéraire ou en titres de l'État, ou d'une Société Anonyme Ottomane, ou garantie par l'État, au cours du jour. Si le dépôt se fait en titres, la banque fera prendre l'engagement de parfaire la différence en cas de baisse de prix. Aussitôt après le dépôt de cautionnement, le Firman de Concession sera remis au concessionnaire. Le cautionnement ne sera restitué qu'à la réception définitive des travaux et proportionnellement à la longueur des sections livrées à l'exploitation; si dans le délai de trois mois précités, le concessionnaire n'effectue pas le dépôt susénoncé, il sera déchu, sans aucune mise en demeure préalable, de tout droit à la Concession.

Dans le cas où l'exécution des stipulations de l'Article XXXV ne pourrait avoir lieu, le concessionnaire aura le droit de toucher son cautionnement sans aucune formalité, et sans qu'il a à demander le consentement préalable du Gouvernement.

ARTICLE XIX.

Le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman conserve la faculté d'exercer à quel que époque que cela soit, son droit de rachat sur la ligne de Konia à Basrah et embranchements, moyennant le paiement au concessionnaire jusqu'à la fin de la Concession, d'une somme annuelle équivalente aux 50 pour cent des recettes brutes, moyennes, des cinq années, qui précéderont le rachat, sans que la dite somme annuelle puisse être inférieure à 12,000 fr. par kilomètre. Le Gouvernement assurera au concessionnaire le paiement régulier, aux époques déterminées, du prix de rachat, qui fera l'objet d'une Convention spéciale. Il sera procédé à la remise des lignes et de toutes leurs dépendances au Gouvernement, ainsi qu'à l'achat par ce dernier du matériel, matériaux, et approvisionnements existants, conformément à l'Article 19 du Cahier des Charges

En cas de rachat de la ligne, si le Gouvernement Impérial ne juge pas convenable d'exploiter par ses propres agents, il n'en cédera pas l'exploitation à une autre Société, mais il promet de la faire exploiter par la Société du Chemin de Fer Ottoman d'Anatolie par voie de bail.

ARTICLE XX.

A l'expiration de la Concession le Gouvernement Impérial ssra substitué à tous les droits du concessionnaire sur le chemin de fer et ses dépendances, ainsi que sur le matériél et matériaux, et entrera en jouissance des produits y afférents.

Il sera procédé à la remise des lignes et de leurs dépendances libres de toute dette et engagement, au Gouvernement Impérial, et à l'achat par ce dernier du matériel et approvisionnements, conformément à l'Article 20 du Cahier des Charges.

ARTICLE XXI.

Les employés et agents du chemin de fer porteront la tenue qui sera fixée et adoptée par le Gouvernement Impérial; ils porteront tous le fez, et ils seront, autant que possible, choisis parmi les sujets Ottomans. Dix ans après l'ouverture de la ligne tout le personnel exécutif de l'exploitation, sauf les fonctionnaires supérieurs, seront exclusivement composés de sujets Ottomans.

ARTICLE XXII.

Le concessionnaire aura la faculté d'exploiter les mines qu'il aura découvertes dans une zone de 20 kilom de chaque côté de l'axe de la voie, en se conformant aux Lois et Règlements y relatifs, et sans que cela constitue pour lui, un privilège ou un monopole. Il pourra de même opérer des coupes dans les forêts avoisinant la ligne, soit pour faire du charbon, après recours à l'Administration compétente, et en se conformant aux Règlements régissant la matière.

ARTICLE XXIII.

Le concessionnaire aura la faculté de construire à ses frais à Bagdad, Basrah, et au point terminus de l'embranchement partant de Zobeir, des ports avec toutes les installations nécessaires pour l'accostage à quai des navires, et l'embarquement, le débarquement, et le magasinage des marchandises.

Les projets de ces ports devront être présentés dans un délai maximum de huit ans, à partir de la date de l'échange de la présente Convention, et les travaux devront être achevés au plus tard dans douze ans à partir de la date du commencement des travaux du chemin de fer. Aux projets seront joints les tarifs à appliquer.

Ces trois ports feront partie intégrante du chemin de fer, et les recettes nettes seront versées au compte des recettes brutes du chemin de fer.

A l'expiration de la Concession ces ports et leurs dépendances feront gratuitement retour à l'État.

Dans le cas où la Société n'exécuterait pas l'un ou l'autre de ces ports dans les délais ci-dessus, le Gouvernement Impérial pourra en accorder la Concession à des tiers.

En tout cas la Société pourra, pendant la période de construction du chemin de fer, établir en ces trois points ainsi que dans le port de Kastabol des installations provisoires pour le débarquement des matériaux destinés au chemin de fer. Ces installations devront, si le Gouvernement Impérial en fait la demande, être supprimées après l'achèvement des travaux.

ARTICLE XXIV.

Le concessionnaire pourra également établir et exploiter, là où le besoin s'en fera sentir, et sur les terrains faisant partie du domaine du chemin de fer, des dépôts et magasins dont l'usage sera facultatif pour le public. Ces dépôts, magasins, et autres installations fixes, deviendront propriété du Gouvernement à l'expiration de la Concession, en conformité de l'Article 20 du Cahier des Charges. Le Gouvernement aura une participation de 25 pour cent dans les recettes nettes de ces dépôts et magasins.

ARTICLE XXV.

Le concessionnaire est autorisé à utiliser gratuitement le long des lignes, les forces hydrauliques naturelles, dont le droit de jouissance n'appartient à personne, ou à créer, destinées à produire l'énergie électrique pour l'attraction des trains, leur éclairage et pour l'usage des différents services de l'exploitation. Les plans et projets des travaux à exécuter dans ce but, seront soumis à l'approbation du Ministère du Commerce et des Travaux Publics.

Dans le cas où on ferait usage de cette énergie électrique, les 50 pour cent de l'économie résultant de ce chef dans les frais d'exploitation, seront portés au crédit du Gouvernement Ottoman. Toutes ces installations feront gratuitement retour à l'État à l'expiration de la Concession.

ARTICLE XXVI.

Le Gouvernement pourra faire élever à ses frais des retranchements et travaux de défense sur les points de la ligne principale ou de ses embranchements, où il le jugera nécessaire.

ARTICLE XXVII.

Les objets d'art et antiquités découverts pendant les travaux, seront soumis aux règlements régissant la matière; toutefois, le concessionnaire sera dispensé de la formalité de présenter une demande et d'obtenir une autorisation pour les recherches.

ARTICLE XXVIII.

Le concessionnaire est tenu de présenter au Ministère du Commerce et des Travaux Publics un état mensuel de toutes les recettes; ces états seront dressés conformément aux indications de l'Article 17 du Cahier des Charges.

ARTICLE XXIX.

Le chemin de fer étant considéré comme divisé en sections de 200 kilom. de longueur, si le concessionnaire, à moins d'un cas de force majeure dûment constaté, n'avait pas commencé les travaux dans les délais fixés, ou s'il ne terminait pas les travaux d'une section dans les délais fixés, ou s'il interrompait le service des transports, ou enfin s'il n'exécutait pas, pour une section quelconque, les autres principaux engagements découlant de la présente Convention, le Gouvernement Impérial fera au concessionnaire une mise en demeure indiquant lesquelles des susdites obligations restent à remplir par le concessionnaire, et, si ce dernier, dans l'espace de dix-huit mois, à partir de la date de cette mise en demeure, ne lui a pas donné la suite qu'elle comporte, il sera déchu de ses droits concessionnels pour toute section de ligne pour laquelle il aura été dûment constaté en défaut.

Il est entendu que tant que la ligne principale entre Konia et Bagdad ne sera pas achevée en son entier, le concessionnaire ne pourra pas mettre en exploitation les parties de la ligne de Bagdad et Basrah qu'il aurait construite, et ne touchera naturellement pas, ni annuité, ni frais d'exploitation (pour cette ligne). Mais cette clause n'infirmera en rien les autres droits du concessionnaire sur la ligne de Bagdad à Basrah.

La déchéance prononcée sur une ou plusieurs sections du chemin de fer ne portera aucune atteinte aux droits du concessionnaire, quant au reste des sections des nouvelles lignes, non plus que quant à l'ensemble des anciennes lignes.

ARTICLE XXX.

Le concessionnaire établira gratuitement, et sur les points désignés par le Gouvernement, les locaux nécessaires aux bureaux des Commissaires Impériaux du chemin de fer et des employés de la Douane, des Postes, et de la Police. Le concessionnaire établira dans les stations importantes, après entente avec le Ministère du Commerce et des Travaux Publics, deux chambres avec w.-c. pour le service de la Poste.

ARTICLE XXXI.

Le concessionnaire pourra établir à ses frais, sur tout le parcours de la voie, des poteaux et fils télégraphiques; cette ligne ne pourra pas servir aux correspondances privées et n'ayant pas trait à l'exploitation du chemin de fer.

Le Gouvernement Impérial se réserve le droit de faire contrôle à tout moment, par des Inspecteurs délégués par l'Administration des Postes et Télégraphes, toute la correspondance télégraphique effectuée par les fils de la Société.

Le Gouvernement pourra faire usage des poteaux du chemin de fer pour l'établissement d'un, et au besoin de deux fils télégraphiques, et les poteaux du chemin de fer seront établis de façon à pouvoir supporter ces deux fils supplementaires, ainsi que ceux de la Société.

En cas de besoin le Gouvernement aura le droit de faire établir à ses frais d'autres poteaux sur le parcours de la voie, ou d'installer, en cas de rupture et de dérangement de ces lignes, des télégraphistes dans les stations pour la transmission par les lignes télégraphes du chemin de fer, des dépêches officielles importantes et urgentes, à la condition toutefois, de n'apporter aucune entrave au service du chemin de fer.

ARTICLE XXXII.

Le concessionnaire aura le droit de faire transporter, avec ses propres moyens de transport, et sans payer aucune taxe à l'Administration des Postes de l'Empire, les correspondances et valises concernant exclusivement le service du chemin de fer, mais à la condition de les soumettre, suivant la règle, au contrôle des agents de l'Administration des Postes. Les lettres privées du personnel seront soumises aux taxes postales. Le concessionnaire ne pourra effectuer le transport de lettres de cette nature, qu'en se soumettant aux prescriptions du règlement intérieur des Postes en vigueur dans l'Empire. Il aura également le droit de faire transporter, et sans leur appliquer aucune taxe, les objets et matières de consommation, tels que houilles, graisses, les matériaux et le matériel nécessaires à la construction, à l'entretien, et à l'exploitation du chemin de fer tant sur les lignes existantes que sur les lignes faisant l'objet de la présente Convention.

ARTICLE XXXIII.

Le Gouvernement Impérial s'engage à faire desservir par l'Administration de la "Mahsoussé" la ligne de Haidar-Pacha à Sirkedji et au Pont de Kara-Keuy, par trois bateaux neufs, ayant, en service, une vitesse moyenne à l'heure d'au moins 14 milles de 1,855 mètres.

Si dans un délai d'un an, compté à partir de la date de l'échange de la présente Convention l'Administration de la "Mahsoussé" n'organisait pas le service dans les conditions indiquées ci-dessus, le concessionnaire aura le droit de faire le transport des voyageurs et des marchandises entre les dits points à la condition de choisir les

équipages de ses bateaux, parmi les anciens officiers et marins de la flotte Impériale, ou parmi les élèves diplômés de l'Ecole Navale Impériale.

Les bateaux du concessionnaire feront leur service au lieu et place de la "Mahsoussé," tout en restant exclusivement affectés au susdit service de transport, et le concessionnaire versera annuellement à cette Administration une somme égale aux 5 pour cent des recettes brutes afférentes aux transports de voyageurs et de marchandises effectuées par lui entre les points susmentionnés.

Les bateaux du concessionnaire, étant assimilés à la flotte de la "Mahsoussé," jouiront de tous les mêmes droits que ceux-ci.

De l'excédent des recettes brutes on déduira :—

1. Les frais d'exploitation.

2. Une annuité de 8:30 pour cent du capital de premier établissement affecté à l'acquisition des bateaux.

Après avoir défalqué les dites sommes, le restant sera porté au compte des recettes brutes des nouvelles lignes garanties. Le montant du capital de premier établissement sera arrêté après l'achat des bateaux.

Il est entendu que si les recettes brutes d'une année ne permettent pas de faire face aux frais précités, la Société n'aura rien à réclamer du Gouvernement Impérial.

Par contre, elle pourra prélever le déficit sur les recettes des années suivantes.

Les bateaux du concessionnaire étant considérés comme une section de la "Mahsoussé," ils jouiront des mêmes droits que celle-ci.

ARTICLE XXXIV.

La Société concessionnaire étant Ottomane, toutes contestations et différends qui surviendraient, soit entre le Gouvernement Impérial et le concessionnaire ou la Société, soit entre le concessionnaire ou la Société, et les particuliers, par suite de l'exécution ou de l'interprétation de la présente Convention et du Cahier des Charges y annexé, seront déférés aux Tribunaux compétents Ottomans.

La Société étant Ottomane, elle devra correspondre avec les Départements de l'État en langue Turque, qui est la langue officielle du Gouvernement Ottoman.

ARTICLE XXXV.

Le Gouvernement Impérial garantit au concessionnaire par kilomètre construit et exploité, une annuité de 12,000 fr., ainsi qu'une somme forfaitaire de 4,500 fr. par année, et par kilomètre exploité, pour frais d'exploitation.

Si la recette kilométrique brute de la ligne dépasse 4,500 fr. mais sans dépasser 10,000 fr. l'excédent au delà de 4,500 fr. reviendra entièrement au Gouvernement.

Si la recette kilométrique brute dépasse 10,000 fr., en outre de la répartition de 10,000 fr., conformément au paragraphe ci-dessus, les 60 pour cent de l'excédent au delà de ces 10,000 fr. reviendront au Gouvernement Impérial, et les 40 pour cent à la Société. La part revenant des dits excédents au Gouvernement, est affectée au paiement de la dite annuité, et le restant sera versé à l'État par la Société.

Il est bien entendu que si la recette brute n'atteint pas 4,500 fr., la somme nécessaire pour parfaire la différence de ce chiffre, sera payée au concessionnaire par le Gouvernement en même temps que l'annuité de 12,000 fr. sur les affectations spéciales à déterminer d'un commun accord entre le Gouvernement Impérial et la Société, avant la mise à exécution par le concessionnaire de la présente Concession.

Les dites affectations seront encaissées et payées par les soins de l'Administration de la Dette Publique Ottomane. La mise à exécution par les deux parties, de la Concession accordée à la Société du Chemin de Fer Ottoman d'Anatolie par la présente Convention, est subordonnée à l'accomplissement des formalités relatives aux susdites affectations spéciales.

ARTICLE XXXVI.

Pour pouvoir déterminer la moyenne des recettes kilométriques des nouvelles lignes garanties, il sera fait masse, au fur et à mesure de la mise en exploitation des sections des nouvelles lignes de toutes les recettes afférentes à toutes les parties des

nouvelles lignes, ainsi que des recettes nettes prévues aux Articles XXIII et XXXIII de la présente Convention. La moyenne des recettes brutes kilométriques ainsi obtenue, servira de base pour déterminer le montant des sommes à payer en conformité de l'Article XXXV.

ARTICLE XXXVII.

Le concessionnaire prend l'engagement d'exécuter à ses frais sur les anciennes lignes de Haidar-Pacha à Angora et Eskishehr à Konia, toutes les améliorations exigées par l'introduction d'un service de trains express, et ce, jusqu'à concurrence d'une dépense de 8,000,000 fr. En compensation de ses frais et des nouvelles charges extraordinaires qu'entraînera pour l'exploitation, l'introduction du service des trains express, le Gouvernement reconnaît au concessionnaire—

1. Une annuité de 350,000 fr. pendant trente ans, pour le service de l'intérêt et de l'amortissement de 8,000,000 fr. ci-dessus; cette annuité commencera à courir à partir du commencement des travaux d'amélioration;

2. Une annuité de 350,000 fr. pour l'établissement des trains express. Cette dernière annuité ne sera éxigible qu'à partir du moment où la ligne principale aboutira à Alep.

Les annuités prévues au présent Article, payées à la Société du Chemin de Fer Ottoman d'Anatolie, sur les affectations actuelles aux garanties de l'ancien réseau et de la même manière que celles-ci.

ARTICLE XXXVIII.

Le concessionnaire s'engage à construire et à exploiter, aussitôt que le Gouvernement Impérial lui en fera la demande, aux conditions de la présente Convention, un embranchement partant de la ligne de Konia–Basrah, et aboutissant à Diarbekir et Kharpout.

ARTICLE XXXIX.

Le raccordement éventuel de la ligne de Damas–Hama et prolongements, avec le réseau faisant l'objet de la présente Convention, aura lieu à Alep.

ARTICLE XL.

Le concessionnaire remettra au Ministère du Commerce et des Travaux Publics, dans le courant du mois de Janvier de chaque année, les comptes sur la base desquels il réclame les sommes à lui payer par le Gouvernement Impérial en exécution de l'Article XXXV de la Convention, comptes qui devront, au préalable, être vérifiés et approuvés par le Commissaire Impérial.

Dans les deux mois qui suivront la présentation des comptes, le Gouvernement s'engage à faire connaître à l'Administration de la Dette Publique le montant des sommes reconnues dues au concessionnaire pour son paiement immédiat.

ARTICLE XLI.

La Société aura la faculté d'établir entre Hamidieh et le port de Castabol un embranchement provisoire pour transporter le matériel et les matériaux nécessaires au chemin de fer.

Il est toutefois entendu qu'après l'achèvement des travaux faisant l'objet de la présente Concession, la Société devra, si le Gouvernement Impérial lui en notifie la demande, enlever les rails de cet embranchement provisoire.

Il est bien entendu que durant cette exploitation provisoire le Gouvernement Impérial ne payera, pour le dit embranchement, ni annuité ni frais d'exploitation.

ARTICLE XLII.

Les terrains et carrières qui seront expropriés, conformément à l'Article VI de la Convention, seront de l'étendue strictement nécessaire pour les travaux du chemin de fer et de toutes ses dépendances, et ne pourront pas être d'une étendue plus grande. Les expropriations se feront sous la surveillance du Ministère des Travaux Publics.

ARTICLE XLIII.

Tous les matériaux et le matériel nécessaire pour la construction des nouvelles lignes, et de toutes leur dépendances, dont il est question dans l'Article VIII de la Convention, étant exempts de tout impôt et de tout droit de douane, seront, à l'arrivée, inspectés conformément à l'usage par les employés de la Douane.

ARTICLE XLIV.

Les dépôts et les magasins à construire sur les terrains des stations, conformément à l'Article XXIV de la Convention, ne serviront qu'à l'emmagasinement des marchandises à transporter. Ces dépôts et magasins seront construits conformément aux plans qui seront présentés par la Société et approuvés par le Ministère des Travaux Publics.

ARTICLE XLV.

Le concessionnaire devra établir, à ses frais, et jusqu'à concurrence, d'une dépense totale de 4,000,000 fr., les stations militaires qui seraient reconnues nécessaires par le Ministère de la Guerre. Le nombre, l'emplacement, les dispositions de ces stations militaires, et de leur dépendances, seront arrêtés après entente avec le concessionnaire et le Ministère de la Guerre.

ARTICLE XLVI.

Le concessionnaire s'engage à verser annuellement à l'Asile des Pauvres, à partir de l'ouverture à l'exploitation de la ligne principale, une somme de £ E. 500.

11 *Cheval*, 1319 (8 (21) *Janvier*, 1317) (1902).

Inclosure 2 in No. 16.

Memorandum by Mr. Weakley.

WITH reference to previous Memoranda on the subject of the Convention of the Konia–Bagdad Railway, I now have the honour to draw attention to the modifications and changes which have been introduced in a number of Articles of this instrument which was accepted and signed on the 21st instant.

Article I has been modified in the sense that the *tracé* of the line now terminates at Zobeir and Basrah. Kazima and Koweit have been left out of the *tracé*, and the Article simply stipulates that the Anatolian Railway Company have the right to construct a branch line from Zobeir to a point on the Persian Gulf, which is to be determined upon later on. The Company enjoys no kilometric guarantee on the branch line to Urfa.

Article III.—The time granted by the Government to the Company, for the presentation of the plans and surveys of the line, has been extended, from eight to eighteen months.

Article IV.—The completion of the whole railway from Konia to Basrah is to be effected in eight years instead of twelve. The former clause concerning "force majeure" has been left out, and this term is now held to imply the contingencies of a European war, or any serious change in the financial situation in Germany, England, and France.

Article V.—The sum which the Company is to pay the Government monthly on account of expenses of control, has been raised from 100 piastres gold per kilometre, to 270 piastres gold.

Article VIII.—A new clause has been inserted, by which the Company undertakes not to cede or transfer any of their rights, whether over the existing lines or those to be built, to any other Company.

Article IX.—The right of the Company to maintain a service of navigation on the Shatt-el-Arab, Tigris, and Euphrates, has been considerably modified. The Company can only transport workmen, employés, and the material necessary for the construction of the railway, by steam or sailing-vessels or any such craft as may be hired, for no longer a period than the time taken up by the building of the railway.

Article XII.—The old Article provided, that should the Government decide at any time to establish a branch line, or tramway from Aleppo to the sea, the Concession was to be given to the Company. The new Article states that should the Government decide upon the construction of branches, connecting the principal line with any points on the coast between Mersina and Tripoli in Syria, the Concession of such lines will be given to the Anatolian Railway Company exclusively; but the Government undertakes to protect any rights which may already have been ceded to the French Company of the Damascus–Hama and Extension Railway.

Certain reserves are made with regard to the Concession of the branches which the Government may desire to have constructed, and connecting the main line with the coast.

It is stipulated that the Anatolian Railway Company will forfeit their exclusive right to the Concession of any one of these branch lines, should they, after having been invited to do so, fail to construct them, and the Government will, in such cases, recover its right to grant the Concession to others.

The Anatolian Company only enjoys a preferential right to the Concession of the branch lines marked A, B, C, &c.

It will be noted that these branch lines will only be conceded "si le Gouvernement Impérial décidait d'une manière définitive."

Article XVIII.—This Article has been recast, and now permits of an automatic reduction of the caution money left in deposit, in proportion to the increase of the added lengths of completed sections thrown open to traffic. The Company forfeits its rights to the whole Concession, should it fail to deposit the caution money of £ T. 30,000 within three months after the issue of the Firman.

Article XXII concerns the right of the Company to work any mines it may have discovered within a radius of 20 kilom. on either side of the line. An important addition has been made to the Article, in the sense that the right to work such mines cannot be inferred to constitute the cession by the Government of any special privilege or monopoly to the Company. Although the Government has endeavoured, by the insertion of this clause, to throw mining enterprise along or near the line open to the public, it would appear doubtful whether capitalists would be inclined to embark in any such enterprise, where they would be likely to meet with decided hostility from a Company holding, first, the semblance of a preferential right to all mines within the stated zone; and, secondly, the only means of transport.

The rights of the Company to build ports, quays, &c., have been defined in Article XXIII. Bagdad, Basrah, and the terminus of the branch line from Zobeir, are the points mentioned where the Company is authorized to construct ports and quays, Kastabol and Kazima being omitted.

It is stipulated that the construction of the three ports mentioned above, must be completed within twelve years after the commencement of the building of the railway.

The last two paragraphs of the Article would, however, allow it to be inferred, that should the Company not exercise its right to build these ports, it will be authorized to erect "des installations provisoires pour le débarquement des matériaux destinés au chemin de fer" at the three ports, as well as at Castabol. The plant thus erected must, if the Government expresses the request, be removed from these ports after the completion of the railway.

Article XXIV.—The Government claims 25 per cent. of the net proceeds of storage charges.

Article XXV.—The Government claims 50 per cent. of the economies realized in general expenditure by the Company, in the utilization of electric power and light on the line and trains.

Article XXIX is a new Article. The stipulations contained in the first paragraph do not appear to be sufficiently clear. It is stated that should the Company, for reasons other than those of "cas de force majeure," fail to commence the construction of any particular section of the line within the period fixed for such commencement, or fail to terminate such section within the stipulated time, due notice or warning will be given to the Company by the Government. Should the work not have commenced, or, as the case may be, terminated, eighteen months after

such warning, the Company will forfeit all rights to that particular section. It is not, however, clear what is meant, or what the Company is to lose in case of forfeiture of rights.

The stipulation that the Company will not be permitted to throw the Bagdad–Basrah portion open to traffic until the entire completion of the whole line from Konia to Bagdad is an important one, and may probably have been introduced with a view of securing the construction of the most unprofitable and comparatively expensive sections (Tel-Habesh to Mossoul?) which the Company might otherwise find it to its interest to abandon.

Articles XXX, XXXI, and XXXII concern the Post and Telegraph services of the railway, which are to be submitted to a strict Government control.

Article XXXIII authorizes the Company to establish a steam-boat service between Haidar-Pasha, Sirkedji, and the Kara Keuy Bridge for the transport of passengers and merchandize. This authorization will be exercised by the Company, in the event of the "Mahsoussé" Administration failing to organize, within three years after the signature of the Convention, this special service on the line indicated by the Government.

Article XXXV fixes the annuity to be paid by the Government to the Company at 12,000 fr. per kilometre of railway completed and opened to traffic. A further sum per annum of 4,500 fr. per kilometre is also to be paid to the Company on account of traffic working expenses.

It is stipulated that the Government is to receive all surplusses of gross traffic receipts above the sum of 4,500 fr., but not exceeding 10,000 fr.

The surplus of gross receipts over 10,000 fr. are to be divided between the Government and the Company in the proportion of 60 per cent. and 40 per cent. respectively, and such sums as the Government will receive on this account are to be placed to the credit of the annuity account.

The revenues which are to be set aside for the payment of the annuity, and the sum fixed for the working expenses of the railway, have not been designated; a provision in the Article specially stipulates that the Convention will only become operative when a decision on this question has been arrived at.

Article XXXVII.—The Company undertakes to strengthen the whole of the present system of Haidar–Pasha Angora and Eskishehr–Konia, and to introduce the necessary improvements so as to permit the running of an express train service. The expenditure for these improvements is fixed at 8,000,000 fr., for which the Government will pay the Company an annual sum of 350,000 fr. for thirty years on account of interest and sinking fund.

The Government also undertakes to pay the Company an annual subsidy of 350,000 fr. for the express train service.

The service of express trains will only be introduced on the line when the railway has reached Aleppo.

Article XXXVIII is a new Article, and stipulates that a branch line will be built to Diarbekir and Kharput.

Article XXXIX.—New Article. Concerns the junction of the Damascus–Hama and Extension Railway with the Konia–Bagdad line at Aleppo. With the junction of these two railways at Aleppo, and the completion of the Hedjaz Railway, the capital will be put into rapid and direct communication with the Holy Cities and the western portion of Central Arabia.

Article XLI authorizes the establishment of a temporary line between Hamidieh and Castabol.

Articles XLII, XLIII, and XLIV are new Articles.

Article XLV is a new Article, which provides for the building of military posts at different points on the line. The expense of construction is to be borne entirely by the Company, and the sum of such expenditure is limited to 4,000,000 fr.

Article XLVI is a new Article.

Constantinople, January 28, 1902.

Inclosure 3 in No. 16.

Précis of the Bagdad Railway Convention.

ARTICLE I.—Grants Concession for constructing and working extension of railway from Konia to Bagdad and Basrah, viâ Karaman, Eregli, Kardash-Beli, Adana, Hamidié, Osmanié, Bagché, Kazanali, Kiliss, Tel-Habesh, Harran, Ras-el-Ain, Nissibin, Avniat-Mossoul, Tekrid-Sadija, Bagdad, Kerbela, Nejf, Zobeir, and Basrah, with branches to Aleppo, Ourfa, Hanegin, and from Zobeir to a point on the Persian Gulf.

Art. II.—Concession to be for ninety-nine years from date of Firman.

Art. III.—The line to be divided into sections of 200 kilom. Plans and surveys of first section of 200 kilom. to be presented to Ministry of Public Works within eighteen months from delivery of Firman, and those of the other similar sections within a period of eight months for each section. If not modified within three months these plans will become effective.

Art. IV.—A period of eight years is allowed for completing the first 200 kilom., which must be begun within three months from date of approval. In case of *force majeure*, including war between European Powers or a "capital modification" in the financial situation of Germany, England, or France, an extension may be granted.

Art. V.—The works to be under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce and Public Works.

Art. VI.—All quarries and ballast works to be expropriated by Government for the benefit of the Company if required for the building of the line.

Art. VII.—The line to be a single one, but sufficient land for a double line to be acquired. The Government may insist on the double line being built when the gross receipts reach 30,000 fr. per kilom.

Art. VIII.—The Company is exempted from customs duties on all material and coal imported (so long as receipts do not cover guarantees), as well as from land tax, and from stamp duty on its shares and bonds. The Company engages never to transfer its lines, whether already existing or to be built, to any other Company.

Art. IX.—Material for construction, as well as workmen, &c., will be conveyed only during the construction on the Shat-el-Arab, Tigris, and Euphrates.

Art. X.—Timber may be hewn for the use of the Company in neighbouring State forests.

Art. XI.—Each section, upon completion, to be inspected by the Ministry before its temporary acceptance, and one year later before its final acceptance. Each section may be worked after the temporary reception. Each such section to be at least 40 kilom. in length.

Art. XII.—Branches to the sea at some point between Mersina and Tripoli (Syria) can be conceded only to the Company, saving, however, the rights already granted to the Damascus–Hama Railway Company; unless the Company should not agree, or, having agreed, should within a year fail to build such branch, as well as seven other branches enumerated, for each of which the Company shall enjoy preferential rights.

Art. XIII.—The Company may establish brick and tile works, all material destined for which will be exempt from import duty.

Art. XIV.—The line to be kept in perfect order during the entire period of the Concession.

Art. XV.—All laws to be observed by the Company.

Art. XVI.—The Company may charge the tariff annexed to the "Cahier des Charges" on each section as soon as it has been temporarily accepted.

Art. XVII.—Soldiers, sailors, war material, prisoners, officials, and mail-bags to be conveyed according to Title V of the "Cahier des Charges."

Art. XVIII.—As guarantee, the concessionnaire must within three months of the official notification to him of the promulgation of the Firman deposit 30,000*l.* in cash or State bonds at the Ottoman Bank, such deposit to be kept up. This deposit will be repaid *pro rata* as the sections are completed.

Art. XIX.—The Government reserves the power of purchasing at any time the Konia–Bagdad and branch lines on payment to the concessionnaire of an annual sum equivalent to one-half of the average gross receipts for the previous five years (not, however, to fall short of 12,000 fr. per kilom.) until the expiration of the Concession. In such case, the Government will not hand over the working to any other Company.

Art. XX.—At the expiration of the Concession, the Government will take over the place of the Company.

Art. XXI.—All employés of the Company to wear the costume prescribed by the Government; they will all wear the fez, and be selected as far as possible from Ottoman subjects.

Art. XXII.—The concessionnaire may work all mines discovered by him within 20 kilom. of the line.

Art. XXIII.—The concessionnaire may build ports at Bagdad, Basrah, and the terminus of the Zobeir branch. Such ports to be completed within twelve years of the beginning of the works.

Art. XXIV.—The concessionnaire may build depôts and warehouses for the use of the public; 25 per cent. of the net receipts of such depôts, &c., to go to the Government.

Art. XXV.—The concessionnaire may use gratis all unowned hydraulic power along the line for generating electricity.

Art. XXVI.—The Government may build defensive works at any point on the line or its branches.

Art. XXVII.—All antiquities found during the works to be subject to the laws on the matter.

Art. XXVIII.—The concessionnaire is to send in monthly statements of accounts to the Ministry of Commerce and Public Works.

Art. XXIX.—Should the concessionnaire fail, after due notice by the Government, in constructing any of the sections of 200 kilom. in the prescribed period, or in carrying out any of his engagements in connection therewith, he will lose all his rights thereto.

So long as the Konia–Bagdad is not entirely completed, the Bagdad–Basrah line may not be worked.

Art. XXX.—The concessionnaire must build gratis all necessary buildings for railway Commissaires, Customs, Post, and Police officers.

Art. XXXI.—The concessionnaire may establish telegraph lines along the railway, which are only to be used for the working of the line, and not for private correspondence.

Art. XXXII.—The concessionnaire may convey, under the supervision of the Postal authorities, all correspondence relating to the working of the line.

Art. XXXIII.—The Government undertake to provide three new steamers of an average speed of at least 14 knots for the service from Haidar-Pasha to Sirkéji and the Galata Bridge. Failing these, the Company will be entitled to provide the boats itself.

Art. XXXIV.—The Company being an Ottoman institution will be subject to the Ottoman Tribunals alone, and will carry on all its correspondence with Turkish State Department in the Turkish language.

Art. XXXV.—The Government guarantees for each kilometre built and worked an annuity of 12,000 fr., as well as an annual sum of 4,500 fr. for working expenses. If the gross receipts exceed 4,500 fr., but fall short of 10,000 fr., all excess over 4,500 fr. to go to the Government.

If the gross receipts exceed 10,000 fr. per kilometre, besides the stipulation just mentioned, 60 per cent. of the excess over such 10,000 fr. will go to the Government and 40 per cent. to the Company. Should the receipts not reach 4,500 fr., the difference will be paid by the Government with the annuity of 12,000 fr. These stipulations to be carried out by the Public Debt Administration.

Art. XXXVI.—In order to establish the amount of the average kilometric receipts, all receipts from the new lines will be pooled; and the average thus determined will serve as basis for calculating the amounts to be paid under Article XXXVI.

Art. XXXVII.—The concessionaire undertakes to carry out at his expense on the old lines Haidar-Pasha–Konia and Eski Shehir–Konia all improvements necessary for instituting express trains, up to an expenditure of 8,000,000 fr. In return for this the Government undertake:—

1. To pay an annuity of 350,000 fr. for thirty years for the interest and sinking and of such 8,000,000 fr., to date from the beginning of the works of improvement.

2. To pay an annuity of 350,000 fr. for the institution of express trains; to date from the time when the main line reaches Aleppo.

These annuities to be paid to the "Société du Chemin de Fer Ottoman d'Anatolie" out of the taxes hypothecated to the guarantee of the old line, and in the same manner.

Art. XXXVIII.—The concessionnaire undertakes to build and work when required to do so by the Government a branch to Diarbekir and Kharput.

Art. XXXIX.—The junction of the Damascus–Hama line with the present line to be at Aleppo.

Art. XL.—The concessionnaire to furnish to the Ministry of Commerce in January in each year all accounts of claims under Article XXXV, which must be approved by the Imperial Commissary. The Government will instruct the Administration of the Public Debt as to the amount admitted to be due, within two months.

Art. XLI.—The Company will be free to establish a temporary branch line between Hamidié and Kastamboul, but after the works are completed will, if required by the Government, remove the same. No guarantee or expenses to be paid by the Government in respect of this.

Art. XLII.—All expropriations of quarries, &c., under Article VI to be strictly limited to the necessary extent.

Art. XLIII.—All materials for construction exempted from customs duties under Article VIII will be inspected on arrival by the Customs officers.

Art. XLIV.—The depôts and warehouses to be built under Article XXIV are to serve only for warehousing goods to be transported. The plans to be submitted to, and approved by, the Ministry of Public Works.

Art. XLV.—The concessionnaire will, at his own cost up to 4,000,000 fr., establish military stations as required by the War Ministry.

Art. XLVI.—The concessionnaire will, from the opening of the main line, pay an annual sum of £ T. 500 to the Constantinople "Asile des Pauvres."

11 *Shawal*, (1319). *January* 8 (21) 1317 (1902).

No. 17.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 31. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January 27, 1902.*

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch, I have the honour to draw your Lordship's attention to the important omission in the body of the Convention, which forms its inclosure, of any mention of the specific guaranties to be given to the Bagdad Railway Company, although in reality this is one of the main points upon which the whole scheme hinges.

The Anatolian Railway Company do not seem disturbed at this omission, and the presumption is that they have willingly consented. It is evident that neither the provinces through which the railway passes nor the free revenues of the vilayets outside the radius of the basin of the Black Sea, which the Russians will take care to preserve intact, will suffice to secure the financial position of the Company, or to satisfy the financial groups interested in raising a capital of some 24,000,000*l*. The Company must, therefore, expect to get the requisite guarantee from other sources, and look forward to the increase of revenue consequent upon the new Commercial Treaties coming into force as the main security answering their demands. They probably did not, however, think it advisable to make mention of this source in the Convention, while the Treaty negotiations are concluded only with Germany and France, barely begun with Austria, suspended with Russia, and just about to commence with us.

They are also perhaps unwilling to arouse the susceptibilities of the countries interested in the Decree of Moharrem, which accords to foreign bondholders a prior right upon all increase of the customs revenue. They can afford to wait if necessary the solution of this point, which has the advantage of allowing them to consider the Convention as optional on their part while binding on that of the Turkish Government. Apart from this, they fear, and not without reason, the opposition of the Russians.

I have always held that this Concession would be supremely displeasing to this Empire's north-eastern neighbour, and that it would probably encounter opposition in its embryo state and create considerable political friction in its more advanced condition.

That my anticipation has been verified, in the first instance at all events, is, I believe, fully borne out by some remarks M. Zinovieff made to me confidentially a few days ago. He inquired whether I had heard any rumour of an attempt on the part of the Anatolian Company to get the surplus of the new Customs duties, and upon my answering in the affirmative, he said that he had been studying the contract, and had almost decided to advise his Government to claim compensation in case they obtained their demands. His Excellency appeared unwilling at first to tell me what this compensation would be, but, after some hesitation, he said he did not see why he should not

insist upon an increase of the war indemnity of 350,000*l.* per annum now paid with such reluctance and difficulty by the Ottoman Government. I observed that as the Convention of May 1882 fixed this sum, it would be difficult to ask for an increase. He replied that he had perhaps no right to do so, but that, on the other hand, the Ottoman Government had no right to an increase of Customs duty, and if he agreed to it, he thought he was justified in asking for compensation. He had not, however, as yet consulted his Government, nor mentioned the matter to anyone, and he begged me to regard what he said as confidential.

It was evident, however, that he was looking about for support in his opposition to the German demands, and that he would have welcomed any observations from me showing that His Majesty's Government were likely to take the same line and oppose any appropriation of Customs revenue to the Bagdad Railway. He dwelt on the impoverished state of the public Treasury, and the way every department of the Government was starved in their financial resources, to the detriment of the general well-being of the country, but even while he spoke his words had a false ring. His Excellency also said that he had asked the Sultan what revenues His Majesty proposed to assign for the kilometric guarantees, but that the Sultan had told him that he was unable to say what they were at present, and that, for this reason, they had been omitted from the Convention, but that certain guarantees would be found according as the railway was constructed.

In conversation with my French colleague last night I learnt that M. Zinovieff had also spoken to him on the subject, but in more guarded language, and had left him under the impression that he did not like the affair.

M. Constans does not take any direct part, but if he inclined to one side or the other it is to that of the railway.

He told me, however, a very interesting fact in connection with the negotiations for the French participation, and one which it pains me not to have been able to report at an earlier stage to your Lordship, and to have learnt for the first time from a friendly foreign colleague. It was to the effect that the Germans at the Berlin meeting in May 1899 proposed to the French to participate in the proportion of 40 per cent. to 60 per cent., but that the French Government, on hearing of this and its acceptance in principle by the Paris Representatives of certain financial houses, the Ottoman Bank among the number, immediately declared that they would allow no quotation of the shares upon the French market upon such conditions; and that if they participated at all it must be upon absolutely equal terms. "So far," said M. Constans, "is this the case that I told Dr. Zander, Chief of the Anatolian Company, that if there was a loan of 600,000,000 fr. and there was a difference of 5 fr. between the German and French share, France would have nothing to do with the transaction. Not only this," he said, "but I also told him my compatriots must enjoy absolutely equal treatment as to the orders for materials, number of officials, and even as regarded the name to be eventually chosen for the Company." The relations existing, he added, between France and Germany made this imperative, and he could assure me that he would not deviate a hair's breadth from this line. If England wished to participate he had no objection, and he understood the more readily that we should wish to do so on equal terms that his Government had insisted upon the same condition.

I was very glad to get this information from M. Constans, for it was carefully concealed from me, as well as from Mr. Babington Smith, whom, as your Lordship is aware, I put into communication with certain London financiers in order that this side of the question should be entirely out of my hands.

I have told Mr. Babington Smith and asked him to inform Mr. Clinton Dawkins, who of his own accord, and very properly, made a similar stipulation which has, I believe, remained to this moment without reply. The whole tone of M. Constans' language shows, I think, that it will not be an easy matter to reconcile the French demands with the interests of the German Company, and that the susceptibilities of the former will make the harmonious working of the Franco-German association by no means an easy task. The late Dr. van Siemens no doubt realized this when he said to me that he would much prefer to work with Englishmen, but that as they had received his overtures so coldly he had no choice but to try and come to terms with the French.

Whatever may be the ultimate outcome of the financial negotiations between the two parties, it is well to bear in mind that, for the moment, the proposals of the French Syndicate are considered by M. Constans as merely an optional arrangement. We cannot forget that if a kilometric guarantee is levied on the new Customs duties, Great Britain, whose imports amount to a formidable proportion of the whole foreign trade of

this country, will bear a heavy part. If our policy were similar to that of Russia and interested in the retrogression and impoverishment of Turkey, no doubt we should be able to show good reason for objecting to any increase of the Customs Tariff for the benefit of a foreign Railway Company. My belief, however, is that our trade and commerce will increase in proportion to the economic development of the country, and that the burthen of the new duty will fall mainly upon the consumers, particularly as these duties are not so high as to encourage and promote native manufactures. It seems to be an established fact that in any province where a railway has been built there has been a noticeable improvement in the well-being of the people, and that the revenue from the tithes has increased from two-fifths to three-fifths.

I am convinced it is to our interest—politically as well as commercially—to assist in any way we can in the progress and development of this country, and there is surely no more effective means to attain this result than the construction of railways. The Bagdad line will never be built in its entirety without a kilometric guarantee, and with such guarantee it is difficult to see how the British public who invest their money in the undertaking can suffer.

The Anatolian Railway Company was at one time in considerable pecuniary straits, but there are few who had confidence in its ultimate success who do not congratulate themselves at the present moment. Financially it has been a highly profitable undertaking, and it is quite probable that the Bagdad Railway will prove equally so. For my part, I venture to express the hope that the English Syndicate will spare no pains to come to an arrangement which will place them on an equal footing with the French and Germans, put them in a position to participate in the work of construction, in the orders for materials, &c., and give them the opportunity of superseding the French if they should, either under pressure from Russia or for other reasons, withdraw from their present engagement.

There is a political side also to the question, which is well worthy of attention by His Majesty's Government. Over and above the stake ventured in this country by the Anatolian Railway Company's system, the Germans are now willing to place an enormous amount of capital, roughly estimated at 24,000,000*l.*, in driving a railway through the heart of the Empire. But it is not only a question of money, but also of credit and prestige; and I do not think they can afford to venture either the one or the other without being prepared to support and maintain the stability of the Empire in which they have staked so much.

I consider that from the date of the signature of the Bagdad Railway Concession the German Government is directly interested in the highest degree in the maintenance of the Ottoman Empire, and that the famous saying of Prince Bismarck, that the country was not worth the bones of a Pomeranian Grenadier, is an antiquated and false political theory.

In conclusion, I beg to draw your Lordship's attention to the fact that, whereas the draft Convention spoke of a line from Zobeir to Kazima, and from Kazima to Koweit, the present Convention refers to this point in general terms by stating that there will be a branch from Zobeir to some point on the Persian Gulf to be later on determined in agreement with the Imperial Ottoman Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 18.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 3.)

(No. 32.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 28, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Damascus, reporting the results of the recent elections to Bishoprics by the Greek Orthodox Synod.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 18.

Consul Richards to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 3.)
Sir, *Damascus, January 9, 1902.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 31 of the 6th May last, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the Synod of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch composed of the Patriarch himself, and the Bishops of Tripoli (of Syria), Homs (who also held a proxy from the Bishop of Diarbekir), Hama, Edessa (*in partibus*), (who also held a proxy from the Bishop of Hasbeya, Rasheya, and Tyre), and Lattakia, met here on the 27th ultimo, and elected the Archimandrite, Constantine Tanzi, to the vacant See of Erzeroum. The Synod also addressed a communication (a sort of ultimatum) to the Archimandrite, Gerassimos M'sarra, of Alexandria, in which he is asked whether he accepts the Bishopric of Aleppo, to which he has been elected, or not; if his reply be in the affirmative, he will be invited to take possession of his See without any further delay.

Your Excellency may, perhaps, remember that the Archimandrite M'sarra was one of the two candidates for the vacant See of Beyrout, the other being the Archimandrite, Raphael Hawawini, who is the "Russian" nominee for that important and much-coveted post. M'sarra, who was elected to the vacant See of Aleppo about a year ago, did practically accept that post on condition that his stipend should be increased, the diocesan revenues being somewhat meagre, by an additional grant of £T. 150 per annum. This demand was acceded to by the Synod, and I understand that M'sarra's acceptance of the Aleppo See was a *fait accompli* when, just then, the Bishop of Beyrout died, and so there was another episcopal vacancy, which was far more to the taste of M'sarra than such a (comparatively) poor diocese as that of Aleppo. This feeling was all the more natural in that his nomination to their See (so I am informed, but I make the statement with all due reserve) is ardently desired by the Orthodox community of Beyrout, with whom he is said to be a great favourite. Unfortunately for him and his supporters, the "native" (as opposed to the "Greek") faction of the community led by the Patriarch and the members of the Synod, and seeking their inspiration from Russia as represented by the "Société de Palestine" and my Russian colleague here, have persistently opposed his pretentions, having their own candidate in the person of the Archimandite Hawawini, who is heart and soul a "Muscovite." The struggle has been both long and severe, the conflicting interests being fairly equally matched, for although Hawawini is supported by Russia and the Synod, M'sarra had at his back the unanimous suffrages of the richest and most influential Orthodox community in Syria.

However, the Gordian knot was cut on the 4th instant, when at a further meeting of the Synod it was decided to split up the Beyrout See into two dioceses, one being Beyrout proper, to which is to be added (so I am informed) the village of Suk-el-Gharb, in the Lebanon, as a summer residence for the Bishop, and the other Diocese consisting of the rest of the Lebanon. The Synod then proceeded to elect the Archimandrite Hawawini to the See of Zahleh, left vacant by the death of the Bishop about a year ago. So far, the result of the conflict of interests and aspirations would appear to be a drawn battle, for, although M'sarra's candidature for Beyrout is resolutely opposed, and his acceptance or refusal of the Aleppo See insisted on, yet Hawawini's candidature for the Beyrout See is withdrawn and he is appointed to Zahleh. By the halving of the Beyrout Diocese, however, Russia certainly scores a point, supposing the decision of the Synod be acquiesced in by those whom it interests most, which is doubtful enough.

It also remains to be seen whether the Archimandrite Hawawini (who is now at New York and has been communicated with) will accept the somewhat unimportant and not very lucrative post of Zahleh. It is quite possible that he may prefer to remain where he is.

There are still two vacant Bishoprics—viz., those of Tarsus and Adana and Akkar. Mgr. Germanos, of the "Greek" party, your Excellency may remember, was "dethroned" from the former Episcopate, while the latter was left vacant by the death of Mgr. Nicodemos about three months ago.

I understand that these vacancies will eventually be filled up by the Synod.

I should state that the Bishops of Homs and Lattakia have gone to Beyrout in order to make known the decision of the Synod to the Greek Orthodox community of that city and to try and induce them to accept it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

P.S.—I have just heard that a telegraphic answer has been received from Mgr. Hawawini, of which, however, the tenour is so ambiguous that it has been decided to have the telegram repeated.

W. S. R.

No. 19.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 33.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 28, 1902.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Damascus reporting progress made in the construction of the Hejaz Railway.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 19.

Consul Richards to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 5.)
Sir, *Damascus, January 13, 1902.*

I HAVE the honour to submit herewith to your Excellency a few details of information recently obtained on the subject of the construction of the Hejaz Railway.

The work on the greater part of the Damascus-Mezerib section of the line is practically at a standstill owing to the still pending negotiations for the purchase by the Ottoman Government of the existing "French" Hauran line. I hear that the Company have reduced their demands from 8,000,000 fr. to 5,000,000 fr.! but that the Government is still holding out in the hope that a still further reduction may ultimately be obtained. It is confidently anticipated that the sellers will come down to 4,000,000 fr., and it is even whispered that they may be "beaten down" to 3,500,000 fr.!

Beyond Mezerib, for the first 39 kilom., the line is being made by the troops (3,000 officers and men), while another 61 kilom. are being constructed by regular workmen supplied by contract. The soldiers are doing much better work now than formerly, because they are being paid by the "piece." Whereas, at first, they were paid by the day. Now every soldier receives 1 piastre ("Good money," *i.e.*, the mejidié at 19 piastres) for every cubic metre of earthwork made, whereas formerly he was paid at the rate of 1 piastre per diem. The result of this change of tactics is that whereas under the old arrangement a soldier never exceeded his cubic metre of work done in the day, it was not unfrequently only ½ a cubic meter. Now the same man will accomplish 3 and sometimes even 4 cubic metres of earthwork in the same time. The extra pay is, of course, a great inducement to the men to do their very best. The consequence is the work is making much more rapid progress than was the case a few months ago. At the same time it is more than doubtful how far it is good economy to employ troops on such work, even when they are doing their very utmost as at present. A foreign workman—say, Italian, of whom a great many are being employed on the line—will do twice the amount of work in the same time, and will do it better. He is better paid, it is true, but in the end rapidity and efficiency make the best possible combination.

As regards the officers, they, up to the rank of Captain, are receiving 10 paras for every cubic metre of earthwork made by the men under their orders. As regards the higher grades, I understand that they are getting 12,000 piastres for every 15,000 cubic metres of earthworks completed. They have also the right to claim their transference elsewhere with promotion after two years' service on the railway works.

The men too gain this advantage, viz., that three years' service in railway making count as four, as is the case with those serving in the Hejaz and Yemen.

Altogether 100 kilom. of the line (exclusive of the Damascus-Mezerib section) are actually being constructed; another 85 kilom. have been surveyed and staked out, while some 45 kilom. more have been studied with a view to a regular survey.

The work is divided up into seven sections, nominally, but in reality there are only four on which work is actually being done: each of these (four) sections is being made by contract.

Fifteen engineers in all, including Herr Meisner, the chief engineer, are now employed (there were originally seventeen, but two have resigned), all but five of whom are foreigners of various nationalities. I understand that their chief grievance is that their numbers are insufficient, it being calculated that there should be at least three if not four engineers for every section of line under construction, consisting of some 30 kilom. (some more and some less), whereas under existing circumstances, if all the sections were being made at once there would be only two engineers for every such section. As a matter of fact, however, each of the four sections of the line actually being made is being "engineered" by one chief engineer and two "sous-chefs."

I should state that two of their number who are Moslems and both of whom are, oddly enough, named Mukhtar Bey, have been ordered to accompany the Haj to Mecca, with a view to their making a preliminary study of the country from the 270th kilom. right on to Mecca itself. It is hoped that the line will be completed (not of course open for traffic) as far as Ain Zerka, a distance of 100 kilom. from Mezerib (62½ miles) on the 29th August next, being the anniversary of the Sultan's Accession.

I understand that the two most difficult parts of the line will be from Mezerib to Ma'an, chiefly on account of the absence of water, and from Medina to Mecca owing to the natural (topographical) obstacles that will be encountered. I am assured that the line ought not to cost more than £ T. 4,000,000, *i.e.*, at an average rate of £ T. 2,000 per kilom., the whole distance of the line, according to present calculations, being 2,000 kilom., say, 1,250 miles. My informant asserts that everything is included in this computation, viz., all necessary buildings and rolling-stock, but that would seem almost incredible. He does not maintain, however, that the undertaking, if it is ever completed, will only cost that sum, because, as is invariably the case, where Turkish public works (or indeed anything else) are concerned, the "leakage," unfortunately, is enormous and altogether incalculable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 20.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 34.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 28, 1902.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 7 of the 13th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith further evidence of the unsatisfactory state of affairs in the Diarbekir Vilayet contained in a Report by His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Diarbekir. I have caused the attention of the Grand Vizier to be called to Mr. Anderson's Report, and His Highness has been informed of the substance of the more important paragraphs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 20.

Report by Vice-Consul Anderson on the Vilayet of Diarbekir, December Quarter, 1901.

THE present general condition of the vilayet is bad. There is little security for life and property. Christian villages particularly are in a miserable state, as, besides what they suffer from Kurdish oppression, taxes are being collected with more than usual severity. The Christian villages all belong to some Kurd Agha, and so long as they satisfy him, they may or may not be well treated according to the disposition of the Agha; but as the Kurds are continually fighting amongst themselves, and it is their custom in case of a quarrel to attack each other's Christian villages, these latter are far from having a comfortable existence; if, however, they were not under some Agha's protection, they would not be able to exist at all. This condition of things is, of course, no new one, but the state of the Christians would appear to be growing steadily worse.

As the chief disturbers of the peace are the Hamidieh, it may not be out of place to make some observations about the six Hamidieh regiments in the vilayet:—

1. The regiment of Ibrahim Pasha, the Chief of the small Milli tribe, numbering about 500 guns and formerly of little account. Since, however, Ibrahim Pasha became an officer of Hamidieh he has gradually extended his influence until he can now, in case of necessity, muster 10,000 guns. His principal enemies are the Shammar Arabs, and his neighbour Halil Bey, who is Chief of the Kara Ketchi Kurds, and also a Hamidieh officer.

2. The regiment of Halil Bey, head of the Kara Ketchi tribe, who can muster some 3,000 men. This tribe is brave and warlike, and except when attacked in greatly superior numbers, is more than a match for Ibrahim Pasha.

3. The regiment of the Kiki tribe, numbering about 1,500 guns. This tribe is at enmity with Ibrahim Pasha, but the Agha is not a man of much account or influence.

4. The regiment of the Dakori tribe of about the same number as their neighbours the Kiki.

5. The regiment of Mustapha Pasha of the Miran tribe, which lies west of the Tigris, immediately north of Tezireh, and numbers about 2,000 guns. Mustapha's principal enemy is Mahommed Agha of the Sor tribe, occupying the opposite bank of the Tigris to the Miran tribe. The Sor tribe numbers about 2,500 guns, but not being Hamidieh, cannot make head against Mustapha Pasha.

6. The regiment of Tayyan Arabs, who occupy the neighbourhood of Nisebin, and number about 4,000 guns.

The position and circumstances of the tribes chosen to furnish Hamidieh regiments is noteworthy; generally speaking, they occupy the borderland between Kurdistan and the powerful tribe of Shammar Arabs, whom they are evidently intended to hold in check. Another noticeable point with regard to the tribes selected to furnish Hamidieh regiments is that the weaker and not the stronger ones are chosen; for example, the Boojakh tribe, between Severek and the Euphrates, can muster about 10,000 guns, and the Ashiti, in the kaza of Midiat, about 9,000, whilst Ibrahim Pasha's tribe, the Milli, numbered only about 500 guns. Khalil Bey could only muster about 1,500, the Kiki about 1,500, the Dakori about the same, and the Miran about 2,000. Mustapha Pasha of this last tribe was a noted robber, who had been marched barefoot from Jesireh, and was in prison at Diarbekir, when selected by Zekki Pasha to command a regiment of Hamidieh. Care, moreover, seems to have been taken to select tribes unfriendly to each other, and, therefore, likely to unite only under Government orders. In furtherance of this idea, it would seem that the Government does not view with absolute disapproval the periodical quarrels between Kurd tribes, Hamidieh as well as non-Hamidieh, or even, perhaps, the more serious conflict between Ibrahim Pasha and the Shammar Arabs, so long as no single tribe or individual attains to a position of preponderance.

It is said that there is no Kurd tribe which would not gladly embrace the opportunity to furnish a Hamidieh regiment as the breech-loading rifles, and the license to use them with impunity which belongs to the Hamidieh are of enormous advantage in intertribal quarrels, to say nothing of brigandage.

With regard to the possession of breech-loading rifles by the Hamidieh, it appears that though they are not actually issued by the Government, the men belonging to these regiments are allowed to acquire them by various means.

The policy manifested by the Government in its careful selection of the tribes furnishing regiments of Hamidieh, one which makes it advisable to prevent these tribes from becoming in any way disaffected, is perhaps a sufficient explanation of the fact that no Hamidieh officer or man appears ever to be brought to account for his misdeeds, however outrageous; the local Government is powerless to punish them, and the military tribunals before which they are summoned invariably acquit them.

This question of the Hamidieh has been discussed at some length as it seems to be one of the most important at the present time in this vilayet.

Ibrahim Pasha has, until lately, been occupied with the Shammar Arabs, and is at present fighting with Khalil Bey, whose pasture ground he has encroached upon.

Mustapha Pasha, as lately reported, has been busy with the Jacobite villages near Jezireh, which were formerly subject to him, but lately, finding his hand too heavy, rebelled. Considering all that he has been doing lately, the forbearance with which he has been treated by the Government is wonderful, but there are signs that he has now perhaps gone too far. Jezireh is an important place, the residence of a Kaimakam; this official was recently, as reported, expelled by Mustapha Pasha, who, it seems, has

for some time been the real Governor of the place. The present acting Kaïmakam is a Yuzbashi of gendarmerie from Diarbekir, who has no power whatever. It appears that the Governors of Diarbekir and Mardin are both opposed to Mustapha Pasha, and would gladly suppress him if they were allowed to do so; he is, however, responsible for his acts to the Mushir at Erzingian only, or to his representative at Mardin, Bahneddin Pasha. This officer nominally supervises the whole of the Hamidieh of the vilayet, but in reality can do nothing.

When Mustapha Pasha commits some flagrant act which calls for some show of notice from the authorities, not he himself, but his subordinates and tools, Tahir Agha and Fatha Agha, are summoned to Mardin; Mustapha Pasha makes a present to Baha Edden Pasha and his men soon return to Jezireh without a stain upon their character.

Until recently Mustapha Pasha had contented himself with constantly ill-treating the Christians, and plundering them on a comparatively small scale, but the affair at Babeka (lately reported) is a new departure. The fact seems to be that the Christians of that neighbourhood have been tormented beyond endurance, and have decided to throw off the yoke, and it is probable that if they combine they will be a match for their enemy.

Insecurity of roads.—The state of the roads, with the single exception of the high road to Kharput, continues to be very insecure, and trade suffers accordingly. The river traffic through Jezireh to Mosul, which was formerly considerable, is now absolutely at a standstill, and instead of daily caravans from Aleppo, these arrive only once a-week or three times a-month. On account of danger of attack on this road, cost of transport is higher than it used to be, and merchants are afraid to bring or send goods of much value.

Some two months ago a caravan coming from Aleppo to Diarbekir, travelled by way of Adiaman, Malattia, and Kharput, thus making a very wide detour, in order to avoid the dangerous section of road between Birejik and Severek. The usual custom now is to form large caravans of from 200 to 300 animals, and to obtain an escort of from ten to twenty soldiers; even then, as such a caravan stretches out a long distance and cannot be adequately protected by so small an escort, the Kurds often manage to strike at some part of it.

There is considerable anxiety at present amongst the Christians of the town owing to the attitude of the Moslems, which is more hostile than usual, even during Ramazan.

There are frequent cases of open ill-treatment and threatening language used towards Christians. This outburst of fanaticism seems to be a sort of reflection of the events at Moush, which are grossly exaggerated here, and greedily snatched at by the disorderly element of this town.

The disorderly element of Diarbekir is a large one, and is always only too ready for any excuse for disturbance.

It is necessary that they should be kept down with a firm hand, but this is what the Government shows no inclination to do. Many unprovoked assaults by Moslems upon Christians have taken place lately, and in no case has the offender been in any way punished.

All the Moslems in the town now openly carry arms, which, until lately, they did not do.

Several Christians have received warning privately from Turkish friends that they must be ready for trouble at Bairam. It is also believed that the Kurds outside the town have been told to hold themselves in readiness, and many of the Aghas have lately been seen in the town.

If the Government here does its duty, I do not believe that any serious disturbance can take place, but its present attitude is not very satisfactory.

(Signed) W. J. ANDERSON.

Diarbekir, January 6, 1902.

No. 21.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 52.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 10, 1902.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 34 of the 28th ultimo, transmitting a copy of a report by His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Diarbekir, in which he calls attention to the unsatisfactory condition of the vilayet in consequence of the lawlessness of the Kurdish tribes and the hostility of the Moslems to the Christians.

I approve of your having communicated the more important parts of Mr. Anderson's report to the Grand Vizier.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 22.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 11.)

(No. 41.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 3, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the accompanying despatch from His Majesty's Acting Consul at Jeddah, reporting the views of the Grand Sherif of Mecca on the Hedjaz railway scheme.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 22.

Acting Consul Hussain to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 3.)

Sir, *Jeddah, January* 9, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that his Highness the Grand Sherif and his Excellency the Vali of Hedjaz left for Mecca on Wednesday morning, the 8th instant.

As far as it is known, the Grand Sherif had come down here under orders from Constantinople to arrange the matters with the Bedouins to allow the telegraph line to pass to Medina unmolested. The Sheikhs of the tribes through whose country the line passes have been called and subsidized, and the work has been started energetically.

In several interviews with the Grand Sherif, his Highness has given assurances to me and other foreign Consuls that he will bring water to Jeddah from a large spring about 25 miles from here which he has been cleaning and enlarging for the last six years, and that he has already written to Constantinople and requisitioned iron pipes for the purpose. He asserted that when this spring will be connected with Jeddah by means of iron pipes it will give a permanent and sufficient supply of potable water to the town during all times, and will place it out of danger of scarcity of water for ever.

His Highness also expressed his keen desire to begin the railway work from Jeddah to Mecca and thence to Medina, and said that as the line between Jeddah and Mecca can be finished within twelve months, it will be well paying owing to the pilgrim traffic and the trade that exist between the two towns, and the surplus after working expenses might be utilized to construct the line between Mecca and Medina. Oft the other hand, if the railway was to be made from the side of Damascus, it would not pay till it reaches Mecca and Jeddah, and so the work will be retarded very much for want of funds. His Highness said that he had requested His Imperial Majesty the Sultan to order the work to be commenced from Jeddah, and in case it was not considered possible to allow to start the work on his own account and expenses, which he was ready to do at once. His Highness also expressed his belief that, if the railway was started from Jeddah, the large number of pilgrims coming annually will derive the benefit of the line at once, and will be willing to subscribe more freely for the railway, and on their return to their countries will induce their countrymen also to subscribe, which will surely augment the funds much and more quickly than at present.

The views of the Grand Sherif in this respect appear very plausible if they ever see the light of realization.

I have, &c.

(Signed) S. MOHD. HUSSAIN

No. 23.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 11.)

(No. 43. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February 5, 1902.*

WITH reference to my Confidential despatch No. 30 of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose herewith copies of two annexes to the Bagdad Railway Conventions, which have been obtained confidentially.

In the first Annex the Anatolian Railway Company declares that it is understood that the annuity, as well as the amount of the working expenses to be paid to the Railway Company by the Imperial Ottoman Government, in accordance with the stipulations of Article XXXV of the Convention, will not constitute a charge on the present revenue of the State, but will be provided out of revenues yet to be created, such as—

1. The increase of the Customs duties by the application of the Conventional Specific Tariff.

2. The creation of the five monopolies mentioned in the draft of the new Commercial Treaties.

3. The economies resulting from the unification of the Public Debt.

In the second one the Company formally undertakes not to introduce foreign colonists or establish settlements of foreign colonists along the line of the Bagdad Railway.

These documents, as well as the actual Convention, are kept secret both by the Ottoman Government and by the Company, but I understand from the Russian Ambassador that he has applied to the Sublime Porte for their official communication in order that he may be able to judge whether they infringe any of the rights or privileges enjoyed by Russia in this country in virtue of her Treaties. M. Zinoview does not seem disposed, at all events at present, to consent to increased customs duties or to the monopolies which will be appropriated to a kilometric guarantee, and the general impression is that he is looking round for some means of hindering the execution of the Convention, or, failing this, that he will demand compensation of one sort or another, whether by an increase of the indemnity of war or otherwise.

The French Ambassador spoke to me with some bitterness of a request reported to have been made by the Sultan to the Company for an advance of £T. 1,000,000 for the Hedjaz Railway. He implied that if the Company agreed to this demand, which would be a death blow to the French Railway from Damascus to Mezerib, it would be impossible for a French Syndicate to participate in the Bagdad Railway enterprise.

No doubt the Convention and its Annexes will be published ere long, but for the present, and as far as His Majesty's Embassy is concerned, I beg to request that for the moment they will be treated as confidential communications.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 23.

Anatolian Railway Company to Turkish Minister of Commerce.

Constantinople, le 11 Cheval, 1319

M. le Ministre, (8 (21) *Janvier*, 1317), (1902).

NOUS avons l'honneur de déclarer au Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman que les affectations spéciales destinées au paiement de l'annuité et des frais d'exploitations prévues par l'Article XXXV de la Convention, seront fixées sans toucher aux revenus actuels du Budget de l'État, c'est-à-dire, seront constituées par de nouveaux revenus, tels que l'augmentation des droits de Douane, l'introduction des cinq monopoles, l'unification de la dette, &c.

Cependant le Gouvernement Impérial conserve la faculté de disposer en faveur des dites affectations, soit de ses revenus actuels, soit des nouveaux revenus précités, dans les conditions prévues par l'Article XXXV de la Convention.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) K. ZANDER.
E. HUGUENIN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 23.

Anatolian Railway Company to Turkish Minister of Commerce.

Constantinople, le 11 Cheval, 1319

M. le Ministre, (8 (21) *Janvier*, 1317), (1902).

NOUS référant à la Convention concernant le Chemin de Fer de Bagdad, en date de ce jour, nous avons l'honneur de déclarer que la Société du Chemin de Fer Ottoman d'Anatolie s'engage à ne pas amener et établir des colonisations étrangères dans les environs de la ligne sus-mentionnée.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) K. ZANDER.
E. HUGUENIN.

No. 24.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 48.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February 10, 1902.*

REFERRING to my despatch No. 240 of the 10th June, 1900, as well as to subsequent correspondence, in which I drew your Lordship's attention to the appointment of Emin Pasha as Governor-General of the Vilayet of Aleppo, and to the abnormal position of the foreign Consuls who, under instructions from their Embassies, refuse to enter into official relations with him, I have the honour to report that I mentioned the matter to the Sultan at my audience last Friday.

The conversation had turned to the question of the appointment of officials, and I was saying that I believed everything depended on the Vali and other high officials whom His Majesty appointed to provincial posts. Where they were intelligent, active, and honest, the Consular Reports described a marked economic improvement and *vice versâ*. I had ventured lately to lay before His Majesty two Reports from the British Consul at Aleppo giving a list of cases of brigandage and murder, and other crimes that had lately occurred in his district, and showing the general disorder that prevailed and the state of poverty to which the inhabitants were reduced. The maintenance of a Vali, like Emin Pasha, in office could not fail to produce lamentable results, and I thought it was in the interest of His Imperial Majesty to see that he did not remain. It was an unpleasant duty to submit to His Majesty reports such as those of Mr. Barnham, but I hoped His Imperial Majesty would give me credit for acting in his interest in laying them before him.

His Majesty said that he did not doubt my motives, but the fact was that it was very difficult always to make a good selection of provincial officials. In considering matters of this sort, he was often struck by the wisdom of the saying of the Persian poet, Sâadi, "that it took a very short time to find out whether a man was educated or not, but years to know his character." His difficulty was to know the men. He saw them for a short time, and for the most part they showed themselves before him in a false light, and it was only afterwards that he learnt what they really were worth and their true character. However, in the case in question his own information confirmed the reports I had received, and he would lose no time in finding a fit Governor-General in the place of Emin Pasha, who would not be retained in office.

I thanked His Majesty for this assurance, and the conversation turned to other subjects.

It may be in your Lordship's recollection that Emin Pasha is one of those officials who was deeply compromised in connection with the Armenian massacres, and who was specially denounced by the French Ambassador. When he was appointed to Aleppo the French, Russian, and other Ambassadors, as well as myself, made representations at the Palace, but without any result, beyond vague assurances that the matter would be inquired into. In the course of the summer I repeated these representations, and was told through the First Secretary that Emin would be removed, and that the Sultan was about to name his successor; nothing, however, was done, and M. Constans, M. Zinovieff, and myself agreed a short time ago to move again in the matter.

M. Constans spoke to the Grand Vizier, and I undertook to broach the subject to the Sultan, M. Zinovieff promising to follow it up in case of my failure or delay in the execution of the assurances which I might receive.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 25.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 50.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 13, 1902.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 17 of the 19th ultimo I have the honour to report that I took an opportunity in the course of my audience last Friday to press the Sultan to give instructions to the Sublime Porte in accordance with his repeated promises to bring the negotiations respecting the Haifa Railway to a conclusion on the basis of the proposal I had lately submitted to the Grand Vizier and Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I ventured to remind His Majesty of the various phases of the negotiations and of the strenuous efforts I had made at his personal request to persuade Mr. Hills to reduce his claim to the lowest limit in view of a prompt settlement. His Majesty had undertaken to satisfy Mr. Hills, and while I was confident that he would keep his word it was not unreasonable to ask now that there should be no further delay in coming to a satisfactory settlement.

The Sultan replied that he was also anxious to settle this question, and that he would see the Grand Vizier on Saturday, and give him instructions in the desired sense.

I have since learnt that the Sultan sent for the Grand Vizier and authorized him to conclude the negotiations, but before finally doing so to try and obtain a further reduction, if possible.

Upon the Minister for Foreign Affairs informing me of this Iradé, which was conveyed verbally to the Grand Vizier through an Aide-de-camp, I said I was afraid that I had now exhausted the resources of a complacent diplomacy, but that if the Sultan insisted upon a trifling reduction I would, in order to show the length I was willing to go, to meet His Majesty's wishes, recommend Mr. Hills to accept 155,000*l.*, instead of 158,000*l.*, equal to £T. 175,000, provided his other rights were respected, and the security for the payment of the money was acceptable.

The Minister added that the Grand Vizier was sending a petition to the Sultan requesting His Majesty to authorize him, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, to carry on and conclude the negotiations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 26.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 52.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 10, 1902.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Haifa as to the present state and prospects of the Haifa–Damascus Railway.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 26.

Vice-Consul Monahan to Consul-General Drummond Hay.

(No. 9. Confidential.)
Sir, *Haifa, January 27, 1902.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I recently had a short conversation with Bedri Bey Wasfi, Colonel of the Staff, who is supposed to have had much to do with stopping the work of construction of the Haifa–Damascus line. He said that the line would never be made, that he was sure it could never pay, as it would depend mainly on cereals from the Hauran, though a line extended beyond Damascus, say, to Bagdad, might pay, and that it was probably commenced ten years ago, with an anti-French political purpose, which was entertained by the Gladstone Cabinet, but was abandoned by Lord Salisbury. Bedri Bey Wasfi is understood to have studied the line with some thoroughness, as was reported by Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Abela in his despatch No. 54 of the 19th November, 1900.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. MONAHAN.

No. 27.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 55.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 10, 1902.*

IN the course of my interview with the Sultan on the 7th instant, the conversation turned for a few moments to the subject of the Bagdad Railway Concession, which had lately received the Imperial sanction.

I said that I wished the enterprise every success in as far as it was likely to increase the prosperity of the country and the well-being of the inhabitants of the provinces through which it passed. I only hoped that the kilometric guarantee would not press too heavily on the straitened finances of the Empire, and that the increase of revenue resulting from the economic development of the country would correspond in some measure to the burthen laid upon the Exchequer. I then went on to say that I had never been able to understand why His Imperial Majesty had in past years so strenuously opposed the prolongation of the Smyrna–Aidin Railway. This line was, as His Imperial Majesty knew, almost the only railway in Turkey which had been constructed without a kilometric guarantee, and without expense of any kind to the Imperial Government. It had marvellously developed the economic condition of the districts it traversed, it had almost doubled the public revenues in those parts, and it had given valuable facilities for the conveyance of troops when occasion required. Notwithstanding all this, the Company had encountered persistent opposition when they applied to extend their line, even as far as Chai, although they were equitably entitled to do so by their Agreement with the Imperial Government. The Company were not, as far as I was aware, now renewing their application, at all events at this moment, for an extension to Chai; but I understood they were anxious to prolong their line towards Esbarta and Lake Egerdir, which would open up a large and fertile district, which was at present in a very backward state, and practically without any good roads or other means of communication. The advantages of allowing the Company to construct this extension were so obvious that I thought it my duty to submit these few considerations to His Imperial Majesty, in whose enlightened appreciation of the question I had every confidence. I added that I did so the more readily that I was sure that, if His Majesty accorded the Company this privilege, it would be highly appreciated by His Majesty's Government and by the British public, who had seen with regret the Haidar Pasha–Ismidt Railway pass out of their hands. His Majesty was good enough to assure me on various occasions that he desired to do something that would be agreeable to His Majesty's Government, and encouraged by this language I had ventured to-day to lay before His Majesty two matters which could hardly fail to be so.

The Sultan replied that he was not familiar with the circumstances of the case, nor did he recollect at this moment the reasons that had prevented him granting an extension of the Smyrna–Aidin Railway to Chai. It was, however, necessary to consider not only the economic but also the military and strategic aspects of a question of this sort, and probably it was the latter that was the obstacle in the way.

It might be as I stated, and that there were no possible military objections to the extension towards Esbarta; but in any case he could not bind himself or his Government by any promise to-day, and all he could do was to engage to take the matter into consideration.

I did not attempt further to press His Majesty particularly, as I ignored the precise wishes of the Company at this moment, though aware that they desired an extension in the direction indicated. I was glad, however, to hear later from the Minister for Foreign Affairs that the Sultan had asked the Grand Vizier for a report on the subject, and the more so as I have little doubt that it will be in favour of the English Company.

I have written privately to Lord Rathmore, President of the Company, for more details and fuller information; but as the subject is likely to come up again for discussion with the Sultan, I should be glad to know whether the language I used on Friday last meets with your Lordship's approval.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 28.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 56.)
Constantinople, February 13, 1902.

My Lord,

I HAVE spoken to the Minister for Foreign Affairs in the sense of my telegram No. 14 of the 8th instant, as authorized by your Lordship in your telegram No. 17 of the 12th instant.

Tewfik Pasha professed entire ignorance, which was shared by the Grand Vizier, as to the occupation of Umkasr and Sahwan, the geographical position of which he did not even know. Assuming, however, as I was inclined to do, that they were places where the authority of the Sheikh of Koweit hitherto prevailed, he did not dispute my point that their occupation was not in harmony with the understanding between our respective Governments. He promised to ask the Vali of Bussorah how matters stood and to communicate to me his answer as soon as received. If, however, I had any latent fear in my mind that the occupation of these places was directed against the Sheikh and with a hostile purpose, he was most anxious to disabuse me of the idea. He could assure me most positively, speaking as Tewfik Pasha and not as Minister for Foreign Affairs, that the Imperial Government had given up all idea of attacking Koweit, and I might make my mind quite easy on this point. I was aware, he said, that the Bagdad Railway Company at first proposed to continue their line to Koweit and to make it the terminus of the railway; but, owing to the difficulties that had arisen with us, the Germans feared that it might give rise to complications, and, in one way or another, lead to the seizure by a foreign Power of a port or station in the Persian Gulf. They had, therefore, taken out Koweit from their programme, but they had not renounced the idea of abutting on the Persian Gulf, and, when the Ottoman Government asked them to end the railway at Bussorah, they had invariably replied that they must get to the Gulf. There was now an idea that England was bent on blocking their access to the sea, and, although he did not know it for a fact, it occurred to him that possibly the occupation of Umkasr, which I described as not far from the shore, was due to the desire to keep a free passage to the sea. He did not suppose that England intended to prevent the railways getting access to the Gulf, and he sincerely hoped it was not the case.

I said that there was no reason for this supposition; that up to this moment His Majesty's Government had raised no objection to a terminal station at Koweit, and I did not know that they would do so, provided the railway went there with their approval and the consent of the Sheikh.

I told Tewfik Pasha that, in any case, the reports of the occupation of the two places I had named was disturbing our local authorities, and that very probably a gun-boat would be sent to Khor Abdullah to investigate matters, unless he was able to tell me very soon that the Turkish troops had been withdrawn.

There is an article in the Turkish press, translation of which I have the honour to inclose herewith, which I have reason to believe is based on information furnished by the Ministry of Public Works, and which indicates Kasima in the Gulf of Koweit

as the terminus of the railway. This place is, I believe, within the radius of the zone over which the Sheikh holds authority, and, if I am correct in this supposition, I think it would be well that he should, without delay, affirm his authority there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 28.

Extract from the "Sabah" of February 11, 1902.

(Translation.)

Report drawn up by the Anatolian Railway Company.

THE new Bagdad Railway will not only be a line of more than local importance, but will in all probability be made the principal highway of communication and correspondence between Europe, Asia Minor, and the Far East.

In order to secure the transport of the numbers of travellers and the large quantities of mails over this line, it is necessary to demonstrate the advantages of rapid means of transport which the Railway must be able to offer, by providing for a service of fast trains; this object can only be obtained by taking the necessary measures for constructing the line in a way which will permit of this special rapid service.

In view of this construction, the speed of 35 kilom., which is stipulated for in former Concessions, has, in this instance, been replaced by new conditions, which impose the maintenance of a speed which will practically be equal to 90, and even more, kilometres per hour between stations.

It has, therefore, been necessary, in the case of this Concession, to follow the system adopted on the Prussian trunk lines. The concessionnaire is called upon to use rails weighing 37 kilog. 240 grammes per metre, instead of 30 kilog.; the rails of 12 metres in length are to be of 58 kilog. 300 grammes, instead of 50 kilog. in weight, and they must be fixed on to ten steel sleepers. The method of fastening the rails to the sleepers by means of chairs, and the strengthening of these fastenings, and which have not been adopted on other lines in the country, are to be used in the building of this line, and, in fact, the general construction will closely follow the Prussian system in every detail. It is also necessary to note that besides the depth of ballast stipulated for in the "Cahier des Charges," millions of extra cubic metres of sand, gravel, and stone will have to be used to cover the increased breadth of the earthworks of the permanent way. The radii of all the curves have been increased from 275 metres to 500 metres, and the gradients have been reduced to 18 millimetres, from 25 millimetres, and all bridges, points, &c., are to be very solidly constructed.

The engagements entered into by the concessionnaire to establish an express service of trains, over and above the ordinary service stipulated for in the Convention, will necessarily involve an increased expenditure, both in the purchase of heavier and more costly locomotives and carriages than those at present used, and also in the increased consumption of fuel.

The cost of transporting building material either from Constantinople or from Bussorah, over long distances, will also involve an expenditure which will bear no comparison to that incurred on other lines. Besides, the running of express trains with very few stoppages will necessitate the permanent employment of a considerable night and day staff along the whole line.

Apart from the very heavy expenditure in wages during the construction of the railway, it will be necessary to foresee great difficulties in procuring workmen, who will not easily be found in some of the parts of Mesopotamia; continual interruptions will undoubtedly occur, owing to the inability of the men to work during the extremes of heat and cold.

It is most important to note that the mails from London vid Constantinople will reach Bussorah (? Bombay) in ten days twenty-three and a-half hours, whilst mails sent by way of the Suez Canal will take fourteen days sixteen hours. Thus, allowing for a six hours' delay both at Constantinople and at Kazima, the time gained by the Bagdad route will be equal to three days and sixteen and a-half hours. This calculation of time is based on the present rate of speed of the fastest mail-boats yet built. It is therefore to be foreseen that unless the Steam-ship Companies who are engaged

in the traffic do not considerably raise the rates of passage and transport of mails, they will be unable to make any attempts to build vessels of greater increased speed than those at present in use.

The rates at present charged by these Companies are considerably in excess of those which the Bagdad Railway will demand, so that it can safely be predicted that the greater portion of canal traffic will most assuredly pass over the Bagdad line.

The traffic will be very great and the revenue to be derived will necessarily be very important, and it is, therefore, essential that this Railway should be constructed on lines which will enable it to cope with the demands which will be made. This traffic will also pass over the lines of the Oriental Railway Company, so that the Constantinople–Bellova section of 562 kilom., in which the Government has a direct interest, will profit considerably.

Amongst the Concessions which the Company has made, it will suffice to mention the following:—

The fares for soldiers, officers, and gendarmerie have been reduced from a third to a fourth, and soldiers are allowed 30 kilog. of baggage free.

Facilities are to be given for the construction of telegraph lines by the Government.

Military sidings are to be provided by the Company.

The Company undertakes to build, at its own expense, the ports mentioned in the Convention.

The personnel to be employed is, as far as possible, to be of Turkish nationality, and the Company undertakes to establish institutions for the instruction of employés in the working and management of the different branches of the railway service.

No. 29.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 19.)

(No. 57.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 14, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that the first three instalments, amounting to £T. 108,670, due on account of the cruiser ordered from Messrs. Armstrong, Whitworth, and Co. by the Sultan, were paid to their agent two days ago, and that the sum of £T. 69,300, equal to 63,000*l*., has been transferred to my credit at the Imperial Ottoman Bank on account of the Armenian disturbances claims of British subjects.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 30.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 19.)

(No. 60.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 14, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of an interesting despatch from Lieutenant-Colonel Maunsell recording a conversation he held recently with the Ottoman Minister for War.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 30.

Lieutenant-Colonel Maunsell to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 1.)

Sir, *Constantinople, February* 12, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to forward the following information gained during a conversation with the Minister for War yesterday. Referring to the state of affairs in the Erzerum and Van Vilayets, he mentioned that within the last few days he had received news of the

concentration of two Russian brigades at Sarikamish, an important military cantonment on the Erzerum-Kars Road, situated 18 miles from the Turkish frontier, and also the collection of railway material at the same place.

In the event of Russia taking advantage of the provisional concession for railways in the Black Sea basin already obtained from Turkey, the first step would undoubtedly be the prolongation of the Tiflis-Kars Railway to the frontier at Kara Urgan and passing through Sarikamish.

The country between Kars and Sarikamish is open and easy, and a line could be constructed with fair rapidity between the two places if the material was already at hand on the spot at Sarikamish. There are already large barracks and the place is at the junction of three practicable routes leading westward towards Erzerum, viz.: (1) By Kara Urgan (main route); (2) by Mejingird; and (3) by Karakurt. Riza Pasha also mentioned that as regards the state of affairs in the Mush district that Mehemed Ali Pasha, the Commandant of the 7th Division at Erzerum, has been in that neighbourhood for some months past (confirmed also by Consular Reports from Erzerum), and has now with him ten battalions for the purpose of suppressing Armenian revolutionaries there.

Recent reports mentioned that 300 more Armenian revolutionaries had crossed the Russian frontier, probably near Alashgird, and were on their way to the Mush district and Sassun Mountains. These men, as well as other bands in recent years, must have passed with the connivance of the Russian frontier guards, as they have numerous posts and the frontier is far too well watched for such a large band to pass unnoticed. Riza Pasha said that the guards on the Turkish side were now being increased.

The sole object of these bands is to keep the country disturbed, to keep the Armenian question alive, and afford Russia an excuse at some moment favourable to her of stepping in to interfere in these districts of Bitlis and Mush, which possess a paramount strategical importance to her as posts on the line of advance towards the Tigris valley and Mesopotamia.

Occasionally some of these bands of revolutionaries get surrounded in some strong position, such as a monastery, church, or large house in a village (i.e., at Zronk Spaghank or Arekh Monastery), where the Turkish troops destroy the band either entirely or partially.

Endeavours are then made to make these occurrences appear as Armenian massacres, and the Russian object of making the country disturbed is accomplished.

These men wear the Russian flat cap and dress and are armed with the Russian magazine rifle, and cannot therefore be held to be connected with the ordinary inhabitants of the Mush Plain, who do not suffer to any appreciable extent except by the general disturbance of the country caused by the movement of these bands.

From my acquaintance with Mehemed Ali Pasha, who is a Bosnian of high family, I should think he could be trusted to act with discretion in distinguishing between these men and the peaceable Armenian inhabitants.

He is by far the most capable and distinguished Commander in the 4th Corps.

Riza Pasha also referred to the recent tribal quarrels in the Nestorian country as having been reported to him as serious by Husni Pasha, the Military Commandant at Van.

This Commander is a very ambitious man and has risen rapidly, and would, no doubt, be glad of an opportunity of distinguishing himself in suppressing some imaginary revolt of the Nestorians.

I mentioned to the Minister that these disturbances were only local quarrels between the men of Tiari and their neighbours, and were not serious or worthy of any military movement to suppress them, and the few troops now at Julamerk could do all that was necessary.

The Nestorians have no national aspirations like the Armenians, but unfortunately are constantly quarrelling with their Kurdish neighbours who are often most to blame and who are supported by the Turkish authorities in many cases, or rather they are never punished for their raids on Christians, while the revenge taken by the latter is magnified to an undue extent.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. MAUNSELL.

No. 31.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 61.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 14, 1902.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 34 of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Diarbekir, reporting on recent current events in that vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 31.

Vice-Consul Anderson to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 3.)
Sir, *Diarbekir, January 28, 1902.*

WITH regard to current events in this district, I have the honour to report that all is now quiet.

It seems that the issue of the "Iradé-i-seniyé" for calling out seven redif battalions was due to the representations of the Vali concerning the threatening attitude of the Christians, and their intention to attack the mosques during Baïram. After receipt of instructions from the Grand Vizier that the Christians were to be protected and order maintained, on the 8th and 9th instant orders were sent out disbanding the redifs.

The Vali, apparently to justify his former representations and action, is now collecting "mozbatas" from the Christian villages in the neighbourhood, to the effect that, first, there is perfect quiet; secondly, they do not wish to have foreigners in the country; thirdly, they will not allow any revolutionists to enter their village. It is scarcely necessary to say that such "mozbatas" are absolutely valueless.

In the early morning of the 19th January, when many Armenians were collected in their church to celebrate the beginning of Christmas, about 500 fully armed Kurds assembled in a mosque adjoining the Gregorian Church, with the intention of attacking it at dawn. Ishak Pasha, the Military Commandant, hearing of this, proceeded to the mosque with twenty soldiers, and dispersed the would-be rioters. It is the duty of the police, who are under the orders of the Vali, and not the duty of the soldiers, to maintain order in the town, and the fact that the Military Commandant, and not the head of the police, acted in the above matter, in addition to other facts which have come to my notice, seem to point to the maintenance of order here having been entrusted to Ishak Pasha direct from Constantinople; if so, it would seem that the Vali's late conduct is not viewed with favour there.

It is reported that Mustapha Pasha, in consequence of his attack on Babeka (reported in my despatch No. 32 of the 30th December last), has been ordered to Diarbekir, whence he will be sent to Aleppo, so that he may be tried outside the jurisdiction of Zeki Pasha, Commander of the 4th Army Corps. This mode of procedure is unusual; in previous cases, owing to the intervention of Zeki Pasha, Hamidieh officers, tried locally, seem to have invariably escaped punishment in this vilayet. In the present instance, however, if Mustapha Pasha is sent to Aleppo, his punishment, if any, will, in all probability, be a purely nominal one, owing to the fact that he is an intimate friend of the Vali of Aleppo.

Ibrahim Pasha has returned to his head-quarters at Veranshehr; he usually remains in the desert with his flocks and herds until the middle of April, and this unusually early return is due to his fear of the Shammar Arabs, who are said to have been harrying him a good deal lately, and with whom he is not strong enough to deal in the open country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. J. ANDERSON.

No. 32.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 60.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February 24, 1902.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 48 of the 10th instant, relative to the steps which you and your French and Russian colleagues are taking to induce the Turkish Government to remove Ennis Pasha from the post of Vali at Aleppo.

Your action in the matter, and the language which you held to the Sultan in regard to Ennis Pasha, at your audience on the 7th instant, is entirely approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 33.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 62.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February 24, 1902.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 57 of the 14th instant, informing me that the Turkish Government have paid to Messrs. Armstrong, Whitworth, and Co. £ T. 108,670 on account of the cruiser ordered from them, of which sum £ T. 69,300 have been transferred to you for the payment of the claims of British subjects for losses in the disturbances in 1896.

I desire to express to you my satisfaction at the settlement of these claims, and my appreciation of the skill shown by your Excellency in bringing to a satisfactory conclusion the difficult and protracted negotiations to which they gave rise.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 34.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 63.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February 24, 1902.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 55 of the 10th instant, informing me that, at your audience with the Sultan on the 7th instant, you called the attention of His Imperial Majesty to the services rendered to Turkey by the Smyrna-Aidin Railway Company, and urged that the extension of their line towards Esbarta and Lake Egerdir might be sanctioned.

Your Excellency's language to the Sultan, as reported in your despatch, has my approval.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 35.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 3.)

(No. 77.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 24, 1902.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Damascus, reporting progress made with the Hedjaz Railway and trouble given by the Italian workmen employed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 35.

Consul Richards to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 15.)
Sir, *Damascus, February* 8, 1902.

HAVING recently read in one of the local newspapers that the Sultan had issued an Imperial Iradé ordering the adoption of such expeditious measures as to insure the completion of the Hedjaz Railway as far as Medina within a period of one year (!), I made inquiries in the proper quarter as to the truth of this rumour, which seemed so incredibly foolish as hardly to merit serious consideration.

I found, however, to my astonishment, that it is not without foundation. It is hard to believe that the magnitude and difficulty of this enterprise are so little appreciated or understood in certain high circles in the capital that the achievement of so considerable a proportion of it within so short a period could have been dreamed of, much less seriously contemplated.

The whole distance from Damascus to Mecca is, at the lowest estimate, 1,750 kilom. —say, 1,094 miles (it will probably prove to be more)—and, therefore, to Medina about 250 miles less. At the present rate of progress, if it be maintained, the line may possibly be finished in ten years; but, of course, all such calculations at the present stage of the proceedings should be made and accepted with all due reserve.

I may perhaps mention, in this connection, that the Italian workmen, generally, who are employed on the construction of this line, as well as that on the Ryak–Hama Railway, have been behaving so badly, and are so constantly coming into collision with the natives, that the Vali has "requested" (some say "ordered") the contractors to cease to employ them in the future. This prohibition, if insisted on, will affect at least 1,500 workmen—between the two lines—whose places it will be very difficult, if not actually impossible, adequately to fill.

The Italian navvy is an excellent workman, infinitely superior to the natives of this country; but he has three serious defects—he drinks heavily as soon as his day's work is done, he is always ready with his knife, and he is somewhat loose in his morals. If to these three factors a fourth be added, viz., his absolute ignorance of the language of the country in which he is working, all the necessary elements of a serious disagreement with its inhabitants are present at one and the same time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 36.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 3.)

(No. 78.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 24, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Acting Vice-Consul at Van, reporting reprisals by Syrians (Nestorians) of Tiari on Lewin Kurds.

In view of the probability of further action by the Kurds, I have caused the Minister of the Interior to be warned of the danger of the situation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 36.

Acting Vice-Consul Sutow to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 5.)
Sir, *Van, January* 30, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 4 of the 15th instant, I have the honour to report further on the recent Syrian attack on Lewin.

It appears that the Syrians behaved with what was, under the circumstances, considerable moderation. Later reports reduce the number of Kurds killed to three or four. The prisoners were taken down towards Tiari and then released, a present of some of the looted animals being given to them. A message was sent through Tajiru's brother to

the Julamerk Kaimakam, informing him that the raid was purely a matter of vengeance, and had been carried out owing to the failure of the Government to give them justice.

As the result of the raid, there seems to have been a violent outbreak of rage against all Syrians on the part of the Kurds in Hekkiari, and especially on the part of the Julamerk Kurds. These latter sent wildly exaggerated telegrams to Bashkala, Gavar, and Sheikh Sadik, reporting that the Syrians had been guilty of gross excesses. They also declared their intention of going down to Tiari, raiding on their way, and invited the Sheikh to march west and join them in the punishment of the Syrians. The Sheikh is said to have sent word that he was unable to do this now, but that in the spring he would join them. The general feeling among the Kurds seems to be in favour of deferring any measures of revenge until that season.

There seems, indeed, to be some danger that the spring will see, if not a general attack on the Syrian Ashirets, such as was threatened last year by the Mira of Berwar, at any rate a great increase in Kurdish depredations and raids on the more defenceless villages.

There is a story current in Kurdish circles there which, although absurd, is firmly believed. It is to the effect that the nephew of Bedr Khan Bey had asked leave from the Sultan to return to Bohtan and raise the Kurds against the Syrian Ashirets, and that His Imperial Majesty had replied that the Kurds must manage the business by themselves.

Unless the Government takes some steps to punish the worst offenders among the Kurds, it is probable that Kochannes and neighbouring villages will suffer from crop-burning and other wanton depredations to a much greater extent than they have recently done, and that there will be an outbreak of raiding throughout the Sanjak instead of the comparative tranquillity which has reigned there during the last two years.

The Julamerk Kurds are especially responsible for the recent outbreak of anti-Syrian feeling, owing to their inflammatory telegrams. The chief leaders in the movement are Hajji Mahomed Agha, Timar Agha, and Mustafa Agha. These men are extremely plausible, and always manage to obtain great influence with the Kaimakam for the time being. It is very necessary for the peace of the whole region that the chief offenders, at any rate, should be humbled, and that a check should be given to Julamerk arrogance and fanaticism.

Another Kurd whose punishment is eminently desirable is Sutu, of the Uramar, who has recently added several outrages to his record of crime.

About the 1st January, Coon, a ryot Syrian village, about one hour's distance from the left bank of the Zab, was raided and thoroughly looted. A zaptieh, sent down to investigate, reported that he had seen ten corpses near the church. Another report puts the number of the dead at sixteen. This is, according to news from Julamerk, the work of Sutu and the Uramar Kurds. Another version is that Julamerk men themselves, in disguise, were the assailants. The reason for this outrage, if there is one besides general hostility, is that, some years ago, this village was under the protection of Malik Ismail, who led the attack on Lewin.

Sutu has also recently raided the villages of Maydi and Nerik, in Jelu. In addition, he pillaged the church of Alsan, in Jelu, in which were stored all the village valuables. The men of this village are now working in the Mosul Plain. A few days later, he raided the village of Bazh, in Nerwa, where two Syrians were killed. He has also, according to a report from Gavar, raided the village of Mar Zaya, in Jelu.

Sutu is protected by the Major Commanding at Diza, in Gavar. The latter, who is on bad terms with the Kaimakam, was formerly quartered in Van, whence the Vali got him transferred to Diza, owing to his intriguing disposition.

Sheikh Sadik is a person who would probably be thought too powerful a man to be touched, though anything done to limit his power would be a benefit to the Christian population.

Recently, 400 of his men raided the Agha of Dali, in Persia. Their losses on this occasion are said to have been thirty killed and wounded. The booty brought back consisted of 7,000 sheep. I should imagine that these figures are somewhat exaggerated.

On their return, the Sheikh's men induced Moussa Bey, of Khamaro, to render help. The Sheikh now throws all the blame on the latter, who is well known for his protection of Christians, and is also an enemy whom the Sheikh has long wished to get rid of.

The attack by Malik Berkhu on the Solayi Kurds did not, I am glad to say, take

place. I regret that this error occurred in my Report; but the usual difficulty in obtaining accurate information is, as regards events in Hekkiari, greatly increased by the peculiar nature of the country.

With your Excellency's permission, I would propose, in the spring, making a short trip to Hekkiari, in order to get on the spot an accurate idea of the state of that district. The Vali, to whom I represented the necessity of taking stern measures to check the possible outbreak of Kurdish retaliation, said that he hoped that I should be going there in the spring, as the reports which he received from local officials were not always to be relied on.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. E. SATOW.

No. 37.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 3.)

(No. 79.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 24, 1902.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 436 of the 8th December, 1901, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Mr. Freeman, His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Bitlis, as to the recent rumoured conversions of Armenians to the Russian Orthodox Church.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 37.

Vice-Consul Freeman to Sir N. O'Conor.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Bitlis, January 31, 1902.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 20th November, 1901, I have the honour to report that persistent rumours have reached Bitlis lately regarding the comforting assurances given by my Russian collegue at Mush to the signatories of the "conversion" Petition.

M. Toumansky is now said to have stated that the Petition has been referred to the Holy Synod.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. G. FREEMAN.

No. 38.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 3.)

(No. 80.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 24, 1902.*

REFERRING to my despatch No. 32 of the 28th January, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of despatches from His Majesty's Consul-General at Beirut and from His Majesty's Consul at Damascus, reporting on the question of the election of an Orthodox Bishop at Beirut.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 38.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 17.)
Sir, *Beirout, February 8, 1902.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 10 of the 21st January, I have the honour to report that no settlement has yet been made with regard to the Beirut Orthodox Bishopric.

In the hope of conciliating the two parties the Vali of Beirut summoned the Heads of the community to meet him a few days ago, and a deputation was chosen by the community for this purpose.

The Vali made the following suggestions. As Msarra and Hawawini have both been appointed to other Sees, they shall accept those appointments and some other person shall be chosen for Beirut. In the meantime an Agent shall be named to manage the temporalities of the See, and the proposed division of the diocese shall not be carried out.

I am informed that the deputation accepted these suggestions, but on the other hand some of the leading members of the community are disposed to refuse them, fearing that unless they can secure the election of Msarra, they are sure to have some nominee of the Russians imposed on them.

In this connection I should add that a large number of the Orthodox community have approached the Anglican Chaplain, with a view to being allowed to attend for a time the services of the Church of England, in case these questions should lead to further difficulties with the Patriarch.

There is, it seems, no idea of schism, but they fear that under certain circumstances they might be left without the ministrations of any Church.

The Chaplain's advice is to avoid schism and under no circumstances to leave the Church of their baptism; but he is of opinion that the Orthodox community here might perhaps be able to benefit by an agreement which was made some eight years ago between Patriarch Gerasimos, of Jerusalem, the then Patriarch of Antioch, and the Anglican Bishop of Jerusalem, that in times of trouble the two Churches could assist one other, and that each should recognize the validity of the rites and sacraments of the other, so that for instance Baptism and Confirmation could be administered by either rite.

Some of the discontented Orthodox may be seeking to put their community under the protection of England, similar to that hitherto accorded to them by Russia; but no overtures have been made to me in that sense, and I do not think that this is the general tendency of the movement, which is in part designed to tide over a time of stress, and in part is of the nature of a threat to the Patriarch and his Russian supporters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 38.

Consul Richards to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 12.)
Sir, *Damascus, February 6, 1902.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 3 of the 9th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the Greek Orthodox Patriarch has received a telegraphic communication from the Minister of Justice and Religion, in which his Excellency states that the Grand Vizier had received a Report from Beirut dealing with the extreme dissatisfaction, not to say excitement and indignation existing among the members of the Greek Orthodox community of that city on account of his Beatitude's action in re the still pending election of a Bishop to fill the vacancy in that diocese. The Minister also states that the Grand Vizier is given to understand that the ill-feeling referred to has been still further aggravated by the recent decision of the Synod to split up the diocese of Beirut into two separate Sees. This being so, Abdurrahman Pasha advises his Beatitude to allay this feeling of unrest and excitement by setting aside the two candidates for the Beirut Bishopric now in the field and electing some other competent person, and that, in the meanwhile, a *locum tenens* should be appointed until the new election is fully consummated.

The Patriarch, in his reply to the Minister, points out that the districts of Beirut and the Lebanon had become so prosperous under the enlightened rule of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, and the Greek Orthodox population had increased so greatly in number, that one Bishop was no longer able to cope with the work which the administration of so large a See entailed, and that consequently he and the Synod had found it necessary to revert to the old order of things, under which there were two dioceses, one for Beirut and the other for the Lebanon, of which the latter was originally known as the diocese of "Jubeil and Batrun."

The Patriarch went on to say (in his telegram) that the Synod was quite of his Excellency's opinion as regards the desirability of removing the names of the

Archimandrites Msarra and Hawawini from the list of candidates for the Bishopric of Beirut, and that, in fact, they were already taking steps to select a third candidate for that vacant post, and that later on they would proceed to nominate and appoint a Bishop to the newly-created diocese of the Lebanon. In conclusion, his Beatitude begged his Excellency to give the necessary orders to the local authorities in this sense.

I should state that I find, on inquiry of the Patriarch himself, that the "old order of things" referred to by him as one under which the districts of Beirut and the Lebanon originally constituted two separate Sees, dates back before the Ottoman conquest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS

P.S. *February* 7.—I have just heard that the Synod met yesterday and selected a Damascene, a certain Epifanios Samra, ex-Prior of the monastery of St. George-el-Humeiri, near Hama, to the Bishopric of Aleppo. As Epifanios was, I am informed, recently removed from his monastery on a charge of maladministration and as his character is and always has been anything but good, it is somewhat curious that he should be promoted to a Bishopric. I hear that the choice was made by the Patriarch himself.

The two Bishops of Homs and Lattakia have returned from Beirut, whither they had been sent by the Patriarch in order to try and induce the recalcitrant Greeks of that city to accept the recent decisions of the Synod. I understand that their mission has not been crowned with success, but as to this I am not in a position to judge.

W. S. R.

No. 39.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 86.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 24, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch and inclosure from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Bitlis, reporting disturbances in Armenia at Norshen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 39.

Vice-Consul Freeman to Sir N. O'Conor.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Bitlis, January* 29, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 7th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a letter which I have received from Mush, giving an account of excesses attributed to the Turkish troops who were sent to capture a party of Armenian revolutionists at the village of Norshen.

Though I believe my correspondent to be fairly trustworthy, it seems doubtful whether the regular troops under the command of Jebbar Bey took part in the pillagings; but that the Kurds (gendarmes and others) were guilty of these excesses, under cover of night, is, to say the least, probable. Husni Bey, the Vali of Bitlis, whom I have asked whether any such outrages were committed, denies the report *in toto*, explaining that, so far as the seven companies* of regulars were concerned, they did not even arrive in time to prevent the escape of the revolutionists. The latter remark conflicts, however, with his Excellency's previous confirmation of the report that an Army Lieutenant was shot at close quarters, as well as the Captain of Gendarmerie.

It is positively asserted by many Armenians here that the Kurdish notables, headed by the Mufti of Bitlis, Fethullah, sent a petition to the Sultan last month

* This number is, perhaps, more accurate than the "five battalions" mentioned by my correspondent.—F. G. F.

complaining that it was impossible for them to live any longer in harmony with the Christians; and the Kurds are said to be collecting rifles and other weapons, and refilling cartridges, in view of a massacre. The Vali, to whom I mentioned this as an absurd story, laughed at the idea; but I was somewhat astonished when his Excellency, after saying that nobody is allowed to carry weapons in the town—a statement which is correct in theory, but not in practice—asked me whether people are not armed when going on an eight or ten hours' journey from London otherwise than by rail. The Mufti and his brother, Saadullah, the "nufus me'muri," have a very bad reputation among both Christians and Mussulmans, and I believe their co-religionists lodged a vigorous complaint against them not long ago. This may be the origin of the report in question, but I venture to express the belief that the report is due rather to what may be termed a troubled conscience. As long as the revolutionists were in possession of the monastery of Arakh, there was a very noticeable elation in the minds of the Armenians, but this has evidently given way to a feeling of nervous apprehension lest they should suffer in consequence of the exasperation caused by the repeated escape of the outlaws. On the other hand, the precedent of 1895, when the plundering of Armenian shops enabled the Kurds to get the upper hand,* without prolonged effort, as regards their relative wealth, and to retain it for a time, is always borne in mind; and there can be no doubt that, were the signal given, the looting would be repeated on a larger or smaller scale, according to the degree of activity or indifference shown by the military authorities. The normal bearing of the Kurds is insolent, and that of the Armenians servile, but they live and trade peaceably side by side, and I am unable to report any change in this respect.

Major-General Salih Pasha, commanding the Bitlis district, leaves on the 3rd proximo for Mush, to take command of the troops there in the place of the Ferik Mehmet Ali Pasha, who returns to Erzeroum. Lieutenant-Colonel Said Bey, of the Bitlis garrison, will, I understand, act as Commandant here.

It is reported that four of the relatives of Sherif Agha, whose murder led to the disturbances last summer, have been arrested on the charge of participation in those crimes, and that two others are wanted for the same reason. This tends to show that the Mutessarif of Mush was not quite accurate in telling me that none of the outrages had been committed by Kurds, and that everything had been done by Armenian revolutionists.

In my despatch of the 7th instant, referred to above, I mentioned a report to the effect that one Saïd Effendi had been imprisoned for using incendiary language in a mosque at Mush. The truth appears to be that, to show his indignation against the authorities for allowing the revolutionists to slip through their fingers, he refused to preach any longer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. G. FREEMAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 39.

——— *to Vice-Consul Freeman.*

(Très Confidentiel.)
Monsieur, *Mouche, le* 9 (22) *Janvier*, 1902.

J'ESPÈRE que vous avez déjà su tout ce qui s'est passé au monastère d'Arakh, où s'étaient réfugiés dernièrement une cinquantaine de révolutionnaires Arméniens. La tragédie s'est changée en comédie. Plus de deux mille soldats, après avoir bloqué le monastère pendant vingt jours, et après avoir donné cinq ou six victimes, ont laissé passer les révolutionnaires tranquillement et sans tirer même un seul coup de fusil.

Par la présente j'ai l'honneur de venir vous donner des renseignements sur l'événement fâcheux qui a eu lieu dans ces derniers jours dans le village de Norchène.†

Norchène est un village Catholique de 350 familles.‡ Il est divisé en six quartiers: le quartier Zado, le quartier Mudir, le quartier Chèkro, le quartier Djindo, le quartier Ouaan, le quartier Mardigh.

Or, le 21 Décembre, 1901 (3 Janvier, 1902), à minuit, neuf révolutionnaires,

* The subject is mentioned in Mr. Monahan's Trade Report for 1897.—F. G. F.
† Frenk Norshen, near Mush.—F. G. F. ‡ 1750 souls (?).—F. G. F.

armés cap à pied, et ayant à leur tête Kévork, entrent dans le village et demandent un asile. Le Moukhtar du village les distribue en trois maisons dans le quartier Zado. Le lendemain, de bon matin, un nommé Kirkor Kasparion, Catholique et du même village, vient en ville, trouve son beau-frère—celui-ci aussi Catholique—Bénigh Andrighian, et avec lui il va chez le Mutessarif et dénonce la présence des révolutionnaires dans le village de Norchène.

Le même jour, à neuf heures et demie du soir—je ne comprends pas pourquoi si tard—une quarantaine de gendarmes, avec leur Capitaine, Hussein Agha, partent à toute bride vers Norchène. En même temps cinq bataillons, ayant à leur tête le Colonel Djobbar Bey, se dirigent vers le même village, et à onze heures ils tiennent les points stratégiques. A la même heure les neuf révolutionnaires, sortant de leurs asiles, commencent à se battre en trois points; ils tuent le Capitaine de Gendarmerie, Hussein Agha, et trois chevaux, et blessent un lieutenant militaire, et à 12 heures et demie ils s'en vont à pas lent et tranquillement. Les bataillons et les gendarmes, au lieu de les poursuivre, de les arrêter ou tuer, entrent dans le village et commencent à piller, en brisant les portes, et emportent tout ce qu'ils trouvent. Il est vrai que les villageois ont pris la précaution de cacher leurs effets de valeur, mais il est vrai aussi que les soldats avec les Kurdes et les Turcs de Mouche ont fait beaucoup de dégâts; ils ont battu les hommes, violé les femmes et les filles même de dix à douze ans; leur iniquité est arrivée jusqu'à ne pas respecter les vieilles femmes de soixante à soixante-quinze ans. De tués il n'y a qu'un homme, nommé Vartan Djindoyan, mais trois ou quatre femmes sont mortes de peur et de traitements impies de la part des soldats, des Kurdes, et des Turcs.

Treize villageois ont été arrêtés. Nous attendons le résultat de l'interrogatoire.

Sur la demande du Vicaire Catholique, le Mutessarif a envoyé 80 soldats pour protéger le reste contre les Kurdes.

No. 40.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 98.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 5, 1902.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 344 of the 16th September, 1901, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, reporting the result of Mehmed Ali Pasha's visit to Moush.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 40.

Consul Lamb to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 4.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, February 15, 1902.*

THE General of Division, Mehmed Ali Pasha, whose departure with troops for Moush was reported in my No. 8 of the 5th September, 1901, returned here to-day, having been invalided on account of serious indisposition.

I am happy to be able to report that his Excellency's conduct of affairs during these five months seems to have fully justified the confidence which I ventured to express at the time of his dispatch. From the moment of his arrival in Moush no more has been heard of the Anti-Armenian Association, which had its centre there, nor of the raids on Christian villages and the organized assassination of Armenians, which were the objects of its existence. In spite of the extreme provocation offered by the revolutionary bands, who, on several occasions, fired upon the troops, causing the death of two officers and six men, no outrages are known here to have been committed by the soldiers under his command, if I except the case of Norshen village (reported by Vice-Consul Freeman in his despatch of the 29th ultimo), and even there I do not think that the participation of the regular troops in the acts of pillage and violence reported to have taken place has yet been established.

The command of the troops in Moush district has been temporarily intrusted to Brigadier Salih Pasha, who, up to the 7th instant, was still in Bitlis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY H. LAMB.

No. 41.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 101.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 5, 1902.*

REFERRING to my despatch No. 78 of the 24th ultimo, inclosing a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van reporting raids by Nestorian Christians on the Kurds in that vilayet, I have now the honour to transmit two despatches from Mr. Satow on the same subject, in the second of which he reports the reprisals taken by the Kurds. The substance of these despatches has been communicated to the Grand Vizier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 41.

Vice-Consul Satow to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 4.)
Sir, *Van, January 15, 1902.*

WITH reference to the penultimate paragraph of my despatch No. 3 of the 3rd instant, I have to inform your Excellency that the threatened raid on Lewin was only postponed by Mr. Heazell.

In the last week of December the men of Upper Tiari attacked Piyanis in Lewin, killed Tajiru, the chief man, and some eight other Kurds, and carried off several captives in addition to sheep and cattle, and the household goods which they looted from Tajiru's house and from others. The Vali also informed me that two women were supposed to have been killed; but information from another source, although agreeing in other particulars with his account, makes no mention of this fact, and I hope that it may prove to be an exaggeration.

This is a regrettable incident, but one hardly to be wondered at, as Tajiru courted his fate by sending taunting messages to Tiari inviting them to attack him. The Tiari men have never forgotten that about two years ago he caused, by treachery, the death of some four or six of their clan and the imprisonment of others. The present Mutessarif is also, to some extent, responsible, as, in his capacity as Commissioner, in 1900 he induced the Tiari men to make peace with the Kurds by promises which have never been fulfilled.

Later in the same week Malik Berkhu and the men of Lower Tiari attacked the Selayi Kurds, who live in the districts between Julamerk and Tiari, and Julamerk and Lewin. I have not yet learnt the losses on either side. The cause of the attack was probably an old feud which dates back some fifteen years.

Both the Mutessarif at Bashkala and the military authorities in Van wished to send troops into Tiari, but the Vali refused his consent to such a measure. Even should he be willing, the snow on the mountains, although less than usual, combined with the very difficult nature of the Tiari country, would, I should imagine, render such a step most hazardous.

In the neighbourhood of Amadia in the Mosul Vilayet the Zebari Kurds (Hajji Agha) pillage the country continuously. In one day they are said to have raided the two Syrian villages of Deri and Kumani, and also the two Kurdish villages of Serghaleh and Bercheh.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. E. SATOW.

Inclosure 2 in No. 41.

Vice-Consul Satow to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 7.)
Sir, *Van, February 11, 1902.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 5 of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the report that the villages of Maydi and Nerik were raided by Grammar Kurds is untrue.

At the attack on Coo, which took place on the 2nd January, Sutu himself was not present, but his relatives took part in the raid. In addition to ten men killed, two men, two women, and one child are reported wounded. None of the murdered men, who were preparing to start for their work on the mountains, were armed. All the sheep and valuables belonging to the village were carried off; and the surviving inhabitants fled for refuge to the neighbouring friendly Kurdish village of Coo. The Uramar are now said to be solely responsible for this outrage. On two previous occasions they have raided this village, viz., in October 1899, when 700 sheep were carried off, and in November 1900, when all the sheep and the other movable property of the village were stolen and three Syrians killed. On this occasion, however, all the stolen sheep except 200 were recovered by Baz Syrians. In addition to the above attacks, Julamerk Kurds raided Coo in February 1899, and in March 1900 on account of its alleged refusal to pay taxes.

After the attack on Coo eight of the Uramar decided out of bravado to return by way of the valley. Here they met twenty Syrians from Baz, whom they taunted with having allowed the stolen booty to pass unhindered. When the Syrians heard this they fired at the Kurds, killing three and wounding two. The Coo survivors now fear lest they shall be held responsible for the death of these men.

With regard to the raid on Duli, it appears that Moussa Bey's nephew, at Sheikh Sadik's request, led the marauding party, which was composed of his own and the Sheikh's servants. Only some 2,500 sheep were brought back.

The Vali talks of sending down a Commission in the spring to inquire into the state of the Hekkiari Sandjak. The result, however, of previous Commissions of a like nature leads one to be somewhat sceptical as to the practical value of such a step, and the true means of insuring permanent tranquillity to that district would seem most clearly to be the deportation of Sutu and other Kurds of his stamp. The Julamerk Kurds, too, should be reprimanded and dismissed from their position as members of the Mejliss.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. E. SATOW.

No. 42.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 75.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 10, 1902.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 78 of the 24th ultimo, forwarding a report by His Majesty's Acting Vice-Consul at Van relative to retaliatory measures recently taken by the Nestorians of Tiari against the Kurds of Lewin.

Your action in warning the Turkish Minister of the Interior of the danger of reprisals by the Kurds is approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 43.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 17.)

(No. 107.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 9, 1902.*

IN continuation of the Reports forwarded in my despatch No. 80 of the 24th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship copies of despatches from His Majesty's Consular officers at Beirout and Damascus, respecting the question of the election of a new Bishop of Beirout.

From these reports your Lordship will learn that the Diocese of Lebanon, recently formed by the division of the See of Beirout, has been filled by the appointment of Boulos Abou Adel, and that the Diocese of Aleppo, from which M'sarra, the "Greek" candidate for the new Diocese of Beirout, has found a Bishop in the person of Epiphanios Samra, of whom Mr. Consul Richards gave so unflattering a description in his despatch No. 12 of the 6th February.

Meanwhile, the feeling of the community at Beirout has been so strong that a considerable number of its members have temporarily deserted their own churches to attend

No. 42*.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 3. Commercial.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, March 14, 1902.*

REUTER'S telegram in the "Times" of the 12th instant says that an agreement has been reached between your Excellency and the Porte for the repurchase of the Haifa–Damascus line.

Mr. Hills inquires as to the truth of this.

Have you any information which can be communicated to him?

the services of the Anglican Chapel, the incumbent of which has been obliged to take a large room in which to accommodate them.

There seems, indeed, to be so little chance of settling the contest between the partisans of M'sarra, the candidate of the "Greek" (as opposed to the native) part of the Orthodox community on the one side, and those of Hewawini, who is backed by the Synod and the Russians on the other, that the Vali is trying to indefinitely postpone the election to the new See of Beirout by appointing an Administrator of the Diocese.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 43.

Consul Richards to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 17.)
Sir, *Damascus, February* 24, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 12 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the Archimandrites Epiphanios Samra and Boulos Abou Adel have been elected by the Synod to fill the vacant Bishopries of Aleppo and the Lebanon, respectively, the ceremony of consecration having also been performed in each case. A third election has also taken place since then, viz., that of the Archimandrite Gerassimos Sighiricakis to the Bishopric of Adana and Tarsus, but although this Prelate was to have been consecrated on the 23rd instant, every preparation having been made with that object in view, it was decided at the last moment not to hold the ceremony. Since then it has transpired that the people of Adana, or, at all events, the greater part of them, have refused to accept the Bishop-elect, on the ground that they still consider Mgr. Germanos to be their lawful Bishop, and decline to recognize any one else in that capacity.

Your Excellency may possibly remember that Mgr. Germanos, who was the chief Bishop of the "Greek" party of the Orthodox community, was for some time the *locum tenens* of the Patriarchate here. As it would appear that the Archimandrite Gerassimos has all along expressed considerable doubts as to whether the people of Adana would ratify his election, and has refused to maintain his candidature in the teeth of such opposition, it is not improbable that now that his worst fears have been realized, his name will be definitely withdrawn.

As regards the other two newly-elected Bishops I have already (in the despatch under reference) described the qualifications—disqualifications would be the more correct term to apply—of Mgr. Epiphanios; of Mgr. Abou Adel I can give a much better account. He is a Damascene who has performed the office of Private Secretary to the Patriarch Malateos ever since his election. He is a man of good education, very pleasant manners, and a fine presence, who is, I believe deservedly, popular with all classes of society in this city.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 43.

Consul-General Drummond-Hay to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 22.)
Sir, *Beirout, February* 24, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 17 of the 7th instant, I have the honour to report that on the two next Sundays a considerable number of members of the Orthodox community attended the services at the small Anglican Chapel, which was unable to contain all those who came.

The Chaplain has, in consequence, taken a larger house in the Orthodox quarter, to give temporary accommodation to the special congregation, and yesterday services were held there in Arabic as well as at the Anglican Chapel in English.

On the 21st a meeting of about sixty persons was summoned by the Committee of the community, but some 400 were present, clamouring for M'sarra's appointment, and none who opposed him could obtain a hearing.

It is hoped in some quarters that in face of the unanimity thus displayed, the

Patriarch and the Palestine Society will withdraw their opposition, and consent to his nomination to the See of Beirout, which has been separated from the Lebanon by order of the Minister of Justice and Religion, in spite of the protests of the Beirout community, reported in my despatch No. 9 of the 17th January.

A certain Boulos Abou Adel, lately Secretary to the Patriarch, has been consecrated to the new Diocese of the Lebanon.

The Archimandrite M'sarra, who had been appointed to the See of Aleppo, has offered his resignation, which has been accepted on the ground of health.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. DRUMMOND-HAY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 43.

Consul-General Drummond-Hay to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 23.)
Sir, *Beirout, February 27, 1902.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 22 of the 24th February, I have the honour to report that the Vali of Beirout recently sent a Delegate to confer with the Greek Orthodox Patriarch at Damascus concerning the question of the Beirout Bishopric. The Delegate was also provided with a letter from the Council of the community.

It was agreed that the election of a Bishop should be indefinitely postponed, but that the community should submit to the Patriarch the name of some person to be appointed Administrator of the Diocese.

The Administrator will, on his appointment, dissolve the present Council, and proceed to the election of a new one.

The Vali has communicated these proposals to the leaders of M'sarra's party, who have asked for a few days to consider them; but there is reason to hope that they will be accepted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. DRUMMOND-HAY.

No. 44.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Lascelles.

(No. 71.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 18, 1902.*

I TOLD the German Ambassador to-day that the question of the attitude of His Majesty's Government towards the Bagdad Railway had been a good deal discussed of late, and it might be as well that I should inform him of the purport of the answers which I had given when questioned upon the subject.

We did not regard the project with unfriendly eyes; but if it was to be carried into effect with our support and good will, we should expect that a share, at least equal to that given to any other Power, should be given to this country in respect of the capital employed for construction of the line, of its management when completed, and of orders for materials.

Count Metternich observed that, so far as he was aware, "the door was open," and there was no reason why any amount of British capital should not be invested in the line. On the other hand, if it were once constructed with capital from other countries, we could not expect to be allowed to come in afterwards.

In reply to a question from him, I said that I understood the proposal to be that the Turkish Tariff should be increased in order to provide the necessary funds for a kilometric guarantee. It would no doubt be for us to consider, when the time came, whether we were justified in submitting to such an increase, and that would depend to a great extent on the adequacy of the share assigned to us in the enterprise.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 45.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 117.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 19, 1902.*

DURING the course of a prolonged conversation with the French Ambassador to-day, he referred to the attitude of the British, or, as he put it, the Indian Government towards other Powers in the Persian Gulf. He regarded the pretensions of the Indian Government as excessive, and attributed to them a desire to treat the Gulf as a British lake. He thought it would be impossible for us to persist in a policy of this kind. The Anatolian Railway would have its terminus at some point upon the Gulf, which would then become a highway for international commerce, and we must look this prospect in the face.

I replied that his Excellency was mistaken in attributing to us or to the Government of India a desire to exclude the trade of other countries from Persian waters. Our attitude towards the Anatolian Railway project had been far from unfriendly. I had, indeed, within the last few days, explained to the German Ambassador that we were quite prepared to facilitate the construction of the line, but that our support was not to be expected unless we were given a share at least equal to that of any other Power in the capitalization of the Company, in its management, and in the orders for materials and equipment.

M. Cambon observed that he could say confidently that there was no desire to deny sufficient opportunities to British capitalists, but that when the project had been mooted in financial circles, the overtures which had been made had met with a very cold response in the City.

I replied that that might be so, but that the question was still under discussion.

I went on to say that whilst these were our feelings with regard to the commercial exits in the Persian Gulf, we entertained the strongest objection to, and should certainly oppose, any attempt on the part of other Powers to create strategical bases or fortified harbours in those waters. The necessity for taking every precaution against such an event had been strikingly illustrated by the example of Batoum, with which his Excellency was, of course, perfectly familiar.

His Excellency having referred to our "méfiance" of Russia in those regions, I said that it had been my earnest wish to arrive at an amicable understanding with Russia in regard to Persian as well as Chinese affairs, and that I had made a "tentative" in that direction, but unfortunately without success.

The above conversation, on both sides, was quite informal, but it is as well that I should report the substance of it to your Excellency.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 45.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 24.)

(No. 30. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 15, 1902.

AS in past years, I have been obliged to press upon the Porte the claims of various British Indian subjects for indemnity for losses caused by robberies in the Hedjaz. I am now happy to be able to report to your Lordship that His Majesty's Consul at Jeddah informs me by a telegram, copy of which is herewith inclosed, that a full settlement has been made by the payment to him of 2,800*l.*, which, in round figures, is the total indemnity which, after examination of the individual claims, Mr. Devey considers to be due.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 45.

Consul Devey to Sir N. O'Conor.

(Telegraphic.) *Jeddah, March* 11, 1902.

FULL settlement in compensation for loss sustained by British Indian mercantile community; 2,800*l.* has been paid. Convey cordial thanks.

No. 46.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 24.)

(No. 118.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 17, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 78 of the 24th ultimo, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship a further despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, reporting on the unsatisfactory state of the Hekkiari district, and pointing out the danger to the public tranquillity and security of the Christian population in maintaining the present Mutessarif, Zia Bey, in office.

I took an opportunity this afternoon of communicating the substance of Mr. Satow's despatch to the Grand Vizier, and of again drawing His Highness' attention to the inevitable consequences of allowing the position of the Christian inhabitants to become so intolerable as to drive them to welcome, no matter from what quarter, any relief from the misery and insecurity of their present existence.

His Highness seemed quite alive to the danger and anxious to forestall it by a better system of Government, but he did not seem to think that it was in his power to do very much.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 46.

Vice-Consul Satow to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 8.)

Sir, *Van, February* 28, 1902.

WITH reference to previous despatches on the same subject, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the present unsettled condition of Hekkiari seems to be to some extent due to the action of the present Mutessarif, Zia Bey.

I have already informed your Excellency as to his character and his relations with the Vali. When Commissioner in the autumn of 1900, in order to effect a reconciliation between the Tiari Syrians and the Julamerk Kurds, he made many promises, the majority of which affected the Christians, and are as yet unfulfilled. The recent raid on Lewin by Tiari may be partially attributed to this cause. Since his appointment he has shown that his policy differs from that of the Vali, and that he has no intention of co-operating with the latter. Tahir Pasha's plan in dealing with outrages committed by

Kurds has been to leave out of the question the tribal leaders as being persons too powerful to be touched owing to Jekki Pasha's policy, and to deal severely with the actual authors of the crimes. The latter have been handed over to the Courts and dealt with according to law, with the result that a considerable number of Kurds are now in prison. Previously, when any member of his tribe was accused of an offence, the tribal leader was allowed to settle the case out of Court with the Vali by a payment in money or in kind. Now, if a leader attempts to do this, he is told that the law must take its course. The result is that the leader's prestige is diminished, as his men discover that his influence is insufficient to secure for them immunity from punishment. Zia Bey wishes to revert to the old system which, under former Valis, has proved a complete failure. It necessitates reference to the Mushir, as the majority of leaders are Hamidieh officers. Much correspondence takes place, and the result is nil. Zia Bey is on friendly terms with the Mushir, and possibly wishes to deserve a continuance of his favour by giving opportunities for his interference in the civil administration of the vilayet. It is also said—and from what I know of his character I think there may be some truth in the statement—that he finds the system of allowing the tribal leader to intervene and by payment to condone the offence to be to his personal advantage. In any case it is a fact that he has refused to co-operate with the Vali, and when, on receipt of categorical orders, he has failed to obey them, has explained the disobedience by the excuse that he never received the telegram.

It is a noteworthy fact that the recrudescence of disorder in the Hekkiari Sanjak coincides with the change of Mutessarif. The late holder of the post was a firm and enlightened man, who obeyed loyally the Vali's instructions. The Kurds are good judges of character, and, realizing that the new Mutessarif is lacking in the necessary qualities, are not failing to take advantage of the fact.

The Vali has written to the Sublime Porte complaining of Zia Bey as unfit for the post and requesting that he may be removed. Should his dismissal be considered unnecessary, Tahir Pasha disclaims responsibility for the increase of disorder, which he considers will inevitably occur in the spring. In this connection I may say that there is a report in Hekkiari that, in the spring a combined attack on the Syrian Ashirets will be made by the Mira of Berwar Sutu, of the Uramar Kurds, the Zshiriki, Gavdan, Mamkhoran, Gulayi, and Sindayi Kurds.

Of these the Mira of Berwar threatened an attack in the spring of last year. Sutu's recent misdeeds I reported in my despatch No. 5 of the 30th ultimo. The Zshiriki are the tribe who attacked Major Maunsell in the autumn of 1900, and, like the Gavdan and Mamkhoran, are sections of the large tribe of the Hartoshi.

I trust that your Excellency will think it desirable to support Tahir Pasha's request, as I am convinced that the tranquillity of the Hekkiari Sanjak, to a very great extent, depends on the appointment to Mutessarif of a man who, even though not possessed of the highest administrative capacity, will, at any rate, co-operate loyally with the Vali in the work of maintaining order.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. E. SATOW.

No. 47.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 24.)

(No. 120.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 17, 1902.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from the Military Attaché to this Embassy as to movements of Russian troops on the frontier of Trans-Caucasia, and a proposed re-dislocation of the Fourth Corps of the Turkish army in Asia Minor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 47.

Lieutenant-Colonel Maunsell to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 4.)
Sir, *Constantinople, March 11, 1902.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Minister of War has told me to-day that the concentration of Russian troops at Sarikamish, mentioned in my despatch No. 1 of the 12th February, 1902, had been reported to him as an experimental mobilization of the troops at Kars and Sarikamish, to determine exactly the time it would take to concentrate them in one place, and that the time taken to get two brigades together at Sarikamish was eight days. The troops had now resumed their former stations.

Also it was under consideration to move the head-quarters of the Fourth Army Corps from Erzingan to Diarbekr, it being intended to divide that corps into two definite commands, one with its centre at Erzeroum and the other at Diarbekr, where the Mushir would be stationed.

There are now three Nizam divisions—the 7th (Erzeroum), 8th (Van), and 19th (Kharput), belonging to the Fourth Corps; and if another, the 20th, were formed, it would be easy to divide into two separate army corps as above indicated; but that at present no funds were available for the formation of the 20th division.

The Bitlis and Van garrisons would be in the Diarbekr command when the Bagdad Railway was completed; Diarbekr would be a good central position for collecting troops.

Riza Pasha also mentioned that Neshat Pasha, now commanding the 6th division at Nassilij, on the Greek frontier, had been selected to command the 7th division at Erzeroum in place of Mehmed Ali Pasha, recently deceased.

He is a smart energetic soldier and well suited for the post.

Ali Pasha, formerly commanding the brigade at Bitlis, but removed thence for his action in the Spaghanuk affair in Sassun, had been recommended by Zekki Pasha, but was not thought desirable or sufficiently good a soldier for so important a command.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. MAUNSELL, *Lieutenant-Colonel, Military Attaché.*

No. 48.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 24.)

(No. 122.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 18, 1902.*

I WAS unwilling to report to your Lordship the settlement of Mr. Hills' claim in connection with the Syrian Ottoman Railway until I received the official note from the Sublime Porte recording the conditions, a copy of which I have the honour to inclose herewith.

It states that in virtue of a decision of the Council of Ministers, sanctioned by Imperial Iradé, the Imperial Government will purchase the railway from Haifa to Damascus for the sum of 155,000*l.*, bearing interest at 5 per cent., payable half this year and half the next, the sheep tax and tithes being given as security.

In return, the Syrian Ottoman Company will renounce all their claims and restore the Firman and Convention to the hands of the Imperial Government, but Mr. Hills' preferential rights will be respected in case the Government should decide to have the railway built by a foreign Company.

I regard these proposals as satisfactory inasmuch as the sum to be paid exceeds by 5,000*l.* the minimum compensation which Mr. Hills was ready to accept, and though the arrangement does not imply ready money, the security is such as to leave little doubt that the Company will eventually encash the full amount, while 5 per cent. will be paid to them in the meantime.

I have not yet acknowledged the Sublime Porte's note nor officially accepted their proposals; but I have informed Mr. Hills' agent that if he does not accept this offer His Majesty's Embassy will be unable to give him any further assistance in the matter.

If your Lordship approves and is pleased to authorize me by telegraph to do so, I think it would be well to acknowledge receipt of the note and our acceptance of the terms without loss of time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 48.

Tewfik Pasha to Sir N. O'Conor.

(Translation.)
M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, March* 15, 1902.

IN reply to the letter which your Excellency was so good as to address to me on the 24th of last month, I have the honour to inform you that, in virtue of a decision of the Council of Ministers, confirmed by His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, my august Master, the Imperial Government will proceed to buy back the railway from Haiffa to Damascus by payment of a sum of 155,000*l.*, bearing interest at 5 per cent. per annum up to the final settlement, and payable half in the financial year 1318 and half in the financial year 1319, from the sheep tax, and, if that is inadequate, from the tithes.

The concessionnaire will have to restore the Imperial Firman of Concession, and also the Convention deeds; will hand over the fixed plant and rolling-stock of the said railway to the High Commission of the Hedjaz Railway; and will give a bond by which he pledges himself not to formulate any claim for damages on account of the suspension of the construction works or otherwise.

The concessionnaire must also pay all sums due by his Company to private persons, and all expenses which may be incurred by the railway down to the day of repurchase will be borne by him alone.

Finally, he will have a right of preference in case the Imperial Government should decide to have the railway built by a foreign Company.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TEWFIK.

No. 49.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 124.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 19, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a cutting from the "Levant Herald" of Constantinople of 17th March, announcing the appointment of Alexander Mavrogeny Bey as Prince of Samos.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 49.

Extract from the "Levant Herald" of March 17, 1902.

ALEXANDER MAVROGENY BEY has been appointed Prince of Samos, succeeding Mihalaki Effendi Gregoriades, who has been appointed a member of the Council of State. The new Prince is the son of the late Dr. Mavrogeny Pasha. He was for some years Ottoman Minister at Washington, and has latterly been a member of the civil section of the Council of State.

No. 50.

Foreign Office to Mr. Hills.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 25, 1902.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you a copy of a note which has been received by His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople from the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs,* recording the conditions offered by the Turkish Government for the settlement of your claims in connection with the Syrian Ottoman Railway.

* Inclosure in No. 48

I am to request that you will be good enough to inform his Lordship, at your early convenience, whether you accept the terms of this settlement, in order that the necessary instructions may be sent by telegraph to Sir N. O'Conor.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 51.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 58.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, March* 28, 1902.

HAIFFA–DAMASCUS Railway.

Mr. Hills replies as follows to proposals in your Excellency's despatch No. 122 of the 18th instant:—

As receiver and manager of the assets of the Railway Company, he will have to obtain the assent of the English Court to the terms of the settlement.

On the following conditions he is ready to accept the offer of the Turkish Government:—

1. The settlement to be made, not with Mr. Pilling, but with him.

2. The sale to relate only to the line from Haiffa to Damascus, and not to preferential rights secured under Firman and Convention. If present Firman and Convention are handed over, such preferential rights should be again confirmed.

3. His agent must be satisfied as to the security for purchase-money and interest.

4. 50,000*l.* to be paid on the signature of the Agreement, and the balance during the course of the present year.

5. On the signature of the Agreement, the sum of 10,000*l.* deposited with the Ottoman Bank is to be returned.

6. From this date the Turkish Government are to bear all further expenses in connection with the Railway.

No. 52.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 31.)

(No. 131.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 23, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 107 of the 9th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Beirout reporting, with reference to the disputed election of a Greek Orthodox Bishop, the visit of the Anglican Bishop to Beirout.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 52.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 29.)
Sir, *Beirout, March* 10, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 23 of the 27th February, I have the honour to report that Dr. Blyth, the Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem and the East, arrived here last week on his usual tour of visitation. On the termination of the four days quarantine on the 7th instant, a deputation of the Greek Orthodox community went on board to welcome him, and at the landing place he was received by some 500 persons. He then proceeded to the Chaplaincy House, where he had an interview with some of the Greek Orthodox leaders.

On Sunday, besides the usual services and a Confirmation at the Anglican Chapel, the Bishop held a service in the temporary church room taken, as previously reported, for the use of the Greek Orthodox. The hall and the surrounding rooms, which contain perhaps 500 persons, were crowded, and large numbers gathered in the garden and neighbouring streets, some 1,500 people being present. The proceedings were completely quiet and orderly.

In his address, Dr. Blyth urged the community to be patient, and to try to meet the Patriarch in a conciliatory spirit, and under no circumstances to cut themselves off from the Church of their Baptism.

The Bishop has now left for Damascus, where he intends to meet the Patriarch; he hopes that an agreement may be made by which the incident may be terminated.

I may add that his attitude has already had a good effect in quieting the excitement that had prevailed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 53.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 31.)

(No. 145. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 26, 1902.*

YOUR Lordship is aware that the proportion in which France was to participate in providing the capital for the Bagdad Railway scheme was fixed originally at 40 per cent., the remaining 60 per cent. being found by Germany, subject to the understanding that both parties should surrender a portion of their share to England and other countries desiring to take a hand in the scheme.

The above proportion was subsequently altered so as to give both Germany and France an equal share of 50 per cent.

I have only now been able to obtain the actual copy of a *procès-verbal* of the meeting between representatives of the French and German groups at which this new arrangement was made, and I have the honour to transmit it herewith to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 53.

Procès-verbal du 14 Juin, 1901.

IL a été expliqué entre les parties que pour établir l'égalité dans toutes les charges [*sic*] avantages de l'affaire entre les deux groupes fondateurs—Allemand et Français—le premier cède sur sa part de 60 pour cent au groupe Français 10 pour cent, chacun étant ainsi porteur de 50 pour cent.

Par contre, dans la répartition des sous-participants le groupe Français prend dans sa part jusqu'à concurrence de 10 pour cent des participations Autrichienne et Suisse, jusqu'ici supportées exclusivement par le groupe Allemand.

La participation prévue par le groupe Anglais demeurera supportée par moitié par les deux groupes. Il en sera de même pour la participation éventuelle à distribuer aux intérêts Russes ainsi que pour toute autre participation que pourrait être ultérieurement attribuée de commun accord avec des tiers.

No. 54.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 96.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 31, 1902.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 118 of the 17th, inclosing a copy of a report from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, in which he calls attention to the unsatisfactory condition of the Hekkiari district.

The communication which you made to the Grand Vizier on the subject has my approval.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 55.

Consul Stevens to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 4.)
My Lord, *Batoum, March 24, 1902.*

I HAVE the honour to herewith transmit to your Lordship, in condensed form, the principal points of an Order recently issued by the Governor of Tiflis to the District Chiefs subordinated to him, and to the Police Master of that town in respect to Armenian refugees from Asia Minor now residing in the Province of Tiflis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. STEVENS.

Inclosure in No. 55.

Order issued by the Governor of Tiflis respecting the Russification of Armenian Refugees.

ON the basis of a Decree issued by His Imperial Majesty, all Armenian refugees are to be called upon to present themselves at the local principal police offices on the 22nd (5th) March of the present year, in order that they may be registered and told that they must either accept Russian nationality or emigrate to Turkey, and a fortnight is to be given them to take a decision in the matter.

On the 26th March (6th April) next a complete list is to be drawn up of all those persons who desire to become Russian subjects. On the 2nd (15th) April, 1902, the oath of allegiance is to be administered to all those refugees who have selected to accept Russian nationality. At Tiflis the oath of allegiance is to be administered in the Van Cathedral. The right is granted unto all such refugees to select the communities which they wish to join by the 1st (14th) July next. Their embodiment as citizens is to take place through the authorities, and their embodiment in village communes can only be effected by the special sanction of a communal assembly of the village they wish to join. Refugees who have a wish to reside at places situated in the inland provinces of the Empire will have free passages granted to them to proceed to their new places of abode. From the year 1902 such refugees are to contribute towards the military service of the country on the general conditions.

No. 56.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 149.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 29, 1902.*

FROM the latest report which I have received from His Majesty's Consul-General at Beirut, there seems to be a reasonable hope that the question of the election to the new diocese of Beirut will be shortly settled. Mr. Drummond Hay states that, at a meeting of the Synod on the 13th instant, a Resolution was passed to fill the vacant See by the appointment of Msarra, the Greek candidate (see my despatch No. 107 of the 9th instant), whose candidature has been hitherto opposed by the Synod and Russian party: the Russian Consul-General attended the meeting and accepted the proposal.

This result is attributed to the intervention of the Russian Ambassador.

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of Mr. Hay's despatch, and also copy of one from His Majesty's Consul at Damascus, reporting a conversation between the Greek Orthodox Patriarch and Bishop Blyth on this question, and on the attitude of the Anglican Chaplain at Beirut with regard to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 56.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 34.)

Beirut, March 17, 1902.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 29 of the 10th instant, I have the honour to report the following information which I have received from a reliable source :—

After the interview of the Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem with the Greek Orthodox Patriarch, it appears that the Bishop of Homs wrote to his brother in Beirut, and the Bishop of Lattakia to the priest-in-charge here, saying that Msarra's nomination would be accepted if a deputation from the community went to Damascus and made submission to the Patriarch.

The day after the Bishop's second interview with the Patriarch a meeting of the Synod took place, at which the Russian Consul-General was present. After long discussion a Resolution to appoint Msarra was passed and accepted by the Consul-General, who, it is said, affixed his signature to it.

It is also rumoured that the Russian Ambassador has telegraphed to Damascus urging the immediate settlement of the question, and it is supposed that this action was prompted by the probability that the Turkish authorities would intervene to inquire into the unrest among their Greek Orthodox subjects.

A special messenger has been sent to Damascus by the community to ascertain whether a Resolution in favour of Msarra has really been passed ; and I am told that he returned with a satisfactory, but as yet unofficial, reply.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 56.

Consul Richards to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 30.)

Damascus, March 14, 1902.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 24 of the 12th instant, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the Greek Orthodox Patriarch returned Bishop Blyth's call on the 12th instant, accompanied by the Bishops of Tripoli and Homs, and remained for over two hours in conversation with him, in the course of which the Vali arrived to pay his return call, but only stayed a comparatively short time. Bishop Blyth carefully abstained from introducing the topic of the Greek Church troubles at Beirut, and contented himself with discussing the friendly relations at present existing between the Anglican Communion and the Eastern Orthodox Church. It was the Patriarch himself who finally brought on to the tapis the subject of the misunderstanding between himself and his flock at Beirut, and that, too, in a tone which augured ill for the probability of the Bishop's message from Mgr. Photios, of Alexandria, and his (the Bishop's) rôle of peacemaker being regarded in their proper light. This, in fact, proved to be the case, for after a long and, at times, somewhat animated discussion, it became perfectly evident that the Bishop was no nearer convincing his interlocutor of the innocence of his intentions and action than he was at the beginning of the interview. It would appear that there exists at the Patriarchate a rooted conviction that Mr. Frere is at the bottom of all the "mischief" at Beirut, and that he has fanned the flames of this anti-Russian movement with a view to gaining a large number of converts to his church, a view of the matter which, as your Excellency is aware, is diametrically opposed to the real facts of the case. The Bishop made every possible effort to disabuse the Patriarch of this idea, but unfortunately without success. Recognizing at length the futility of continuing the discussion he abandoned it, and returned to neutral and less debatable ground. Shortly afterwards the interview came to an end.

Mgr. Meletios is a not unamiable person with a colourless individuality, and, I may almost say, a weak intellect. He is, owing to his somewhat advanced age, poor health, and lack of vigour, both physical and mental, easily influenced by the members of his *entourage*, among whom the Bishop of Tripoli plays a prominent part, unfortunately for the best interests of his chief. Of course, the Patriarch's supreme governor and mentor is my Russian colleague, without whose advice he takes no step, small or great. This being so, your Excellency will understand that the Patriarch's present attitude of

unyielding persistence is not necessarily the result of matured reflection on the merits of the present dispute, nor is it to be attributed to the conviction that he has right on his side ; it is rather the outcome of the well-learned lesson, that he must do as he is told.

Bishop Blyth and his companions left Damascus for Beirut on the following day.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 57.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 8.)

(No. 156.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, April 1, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Bitlis as to measures taken against a possible revolutionary movement in Armenia this spring.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 57.

Vice-Consul Freeman to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 4.)

Sir,

Bitlis, March 8, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that instructions have recently been received by the local authorities of Bitlis to be on the watch against any action on the part of Armenian revolutionists. Packages arriving from the north are consequently examined before being admitted into the town, and the night patrols have been increased.

I have not so far heard of any smuggled arms or ammunition having been brought to light by this means except on one occasion, when three rifles it is said were found concealed in a bale imported by Hajji Ali, a Moslem merchant.

The above-mentioned orders appear to have been issued in consequence of a report received from the Ottoman Embassy in Paris to the effect that, according to information from New York, the revolutionists contemplate a general rising in the spring.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. G. FREEMAN.

No. 58.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 14.)

(No. 166. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, April 8, 1902.

SINCE the date of the Mitylene expedition, by which France secured, in addition to the settlement of certain financial claims, the formal recognition by Imperial Firman of all her religious and charitable institutions in Turkey, the Russian Embassy has been pressing for similar treatment on behalf of numerous Russian schools in Syria.

These, to the number of eighty-seven, being all either Russian or under Russian protection, have now been officially recognized by the Ottoman Government, and I hear from His Majesty's Acting Consul at Jerusalem that great rejoicings, with illuminations and a display of flags by the Russian Palestine Society, have taken place there to celebrate the occasion, the *Te Deum* being sung in the presence of the Russian Consul-General at the head of his Colony and 5,000 pilgrims.

I learn that the French Ambassador has not concealed from the Ottoman Foreign Minister his displeasure at the facilities thus accorded to the propagandism of the Palestine Society in Syria. Tewfik Pasha very naturally replied that it was the direct consequence of the action taken by France, and that it was now impossible to refuse either to the Russians or others what had been granted to that Power.

I am myself preparing a list of similar British establishments in Turkey, and propose, with your Lordship's approval, to present it shortly to the Sublime Porte for recognition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 59.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 68.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, April* 15, 1902.

I HAVE received a letter from the Bishop of Salisbury, who is Chairman of the Jerusalem Mission Fund, inquiring as to a proposal which has been made by a large Maronite village at Zûk Eukayi, near Beirut, to join the Anglican Church on account of their own Bishop's tyranny.

Apparently application has been made by this village to Bishop Blyth, who has asked the Bishop of Salisbury's advice.

I request that you will report to me the facts of this case, and furnish me with any observations you can offer on the subject.

No. 60.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 125.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 17, 1902.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 166, Confidential, of the 8th instant, reporting the recognition by Imperial Firman of Russian schools in Syria, and proposing to draw up a list of similar British institutions in Turkey for presentation to the Porte for recognition.

I approve the action your Excellency proposes to take in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 61.

Anthopoulo Pasha to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 19.)

Ambassade Impériale de Turquie,
Londres, le 18 *Avril,* 1902.

M. le Marquis,

J'AI l'honneur de transmettre ci-jointe, pour l'information de votre Seigneurie, une relation succincte de deux incidents qui se sont passés dans l'Anatolie.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) ANTHOPOULO.

Inclosure in No. 61.

Aide-mémoire.

Communication du Gouverneur-Général de Mamouret-ul-Aziz.

UN Arménien nommé Carabed, fils de Johannes, est arrivé déguisé en mendiant à Erzinghian. Son apparence ayant excité des soupçons, il a été arrêté par la police, et des perquisitions ont été faites sur sa personne. On a trouvé sur lui deux cahiers en tête desquels étaient écrits en Arménien ces mots: "Liste des honnêtes gens," c'est-à-dire liste d'Arméniens habitant des localités dans différents vilayets.

No. 58*.

Questions asked in the House of Commons, April 15, 1902.

Sir John Kennaway,—To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Diarbekir has been sent again to Moush this year; whether His Majesty's Government have any reports indicating the renewal of massacres in Armenia; and, if so, whether they are taking any steps alone or in conjunction with other Powers to avert the danger.

Answer.

The British Vice-Consulate at Bitlis has been re-established and His Majesty's Consul at Diarbekir is now residing there, his duties at Diarbekir being fulfilled by another officer. Moush is in the Vice-Consular district of Bitlis, and within easy reach of that town.

The reports received by His Majesty's Government indicate that a disturbed state of affairs exists in some of the vilayets, especially in the Hekkiari district, but there is no evidence pointing to the likelihood of a renewal of massacres.

His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople has recently, on three or four occasions, called the attention of the Porte to the matter.

Quand on lui demanda pourquoi il avait écrit cette liste, il lui fut impossible de fournir des explications satisfaisantes; mais comme l'un des noms inscrits était celui d'un Arménien habitant Erzinghian et nommé Serkis Manekian, des perquisitions ont été opérées dans la maison de ce dernier, et on y a trouvé une boîte qui a été découverte en présence des deux suspects. Elle contenait trois autres boîtes en nickel renfermant 150 kilog. de la substance employée pour la fabrication de la poudre à coton. Sur ces boîtes il y avait des signes et des indications mystérieuses, ainsi qu'une carte de l'Arménie.

Ces deux individus ont été référés à la justice.

A Égin un Arménien nommé Daguesse, accompagné d'un autre Arménien, est entré nuitamment dans la maison de Hashian, un Notable, et lui a donné un papier écrit en langue Arménienne portant ces mots: "Mort ou la remise de 150 livres.' Le dit papier était revêtu du sceau de l'Association Arménienne. Daguesse a obtenu en même temps de ce Notable une traite de 40 livres payable à dix jours, une livre Turque, et un porte-cigarettes en argent.

Le Notable ayant informé la police de ce qui précède, ces individus ont été arrêtés, leurs maisons ont été fouillées, et les objets susmentionnés y ont été trouvés.

Les deux individus ont été référés à la justice.

No. 62.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 21.)

(No. 173.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 10, 1902.

I ASKED the German Ambassador yesterday whether he could tell me the result of the negotiations which I understood had taken place between British capitalists and the Deutsche Bank in regard to the former's participation in the Bagdad Railway.

Baron von Marschall replied that Dr. Zander, President of the Anatolian Railway, had only just returned, and that, as soon as he saw him, he would find out if any arrangement had been come to and let me know.

I reminded his Excellency of the efforts made by Dr. von Siemens to enlist British capital, and I said I was somewhat surprised at learning recently that we had been kept so long in the dark as to the real terms and conditions upon which the French Syndicate had eventually agreed to share in the cost of the construction of the line. In any case, it was now evident that British capitalists could only count upon the support of His Majesty's Government, or take part in the enterprise upon the conditions that they obtained the same terms as others in regard to the direction, materials, plant, &c.

I went on to say that, inasmuch as the kilometric guarantee was to be mainly provided by the increased customs duties, which would fall heavily upon British imports, we naturally desired to know beforehand how far it was to our interest to consent to this increase, particularly as it was to be appropriated to a specific purpose. Our attitude in regard to the Commercial Treaty, as well as in respect to other matters, must necessarily depend upon this consideration, but I was sure that, if this point was settled satisfactorily, there would be no difficulty in connection with the terminus of the railway in the Persian Gulf.

Beyond signifying his general concurrence in these views, Baron von Marschall made no remark.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 63.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 28.)

(No. 182.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 18, 1902.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 180 of the 22nd May, 1900, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Damascus in which he calls attention to the spread of Russian influence in Syria through the control by the Palestine Society of the great majority of the Orthodox schools.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 63.

Consul Richards to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 41.)
Sir, *Damascus, April 8, 1902.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 79 of the 28th December, 1901, and your Excellency's telegraphic instructions of the 13th January, I have the honour to report that, although my French colleague is complying with the request of the Vali in furnishing information on several points in connection with the French schools in this vilayet, my Russian colleague has not done so, and that for the simple reason that no application has been made to him in the matter. I asked him some time ago whether he intended to supply the desired information or not, and to my great surprise, he informed me that he had not been asked for it, although my chancellier had been assured by the Director of Public Instruction that application had been made to all the Consuls. Subsequently, I spoke to the Director of Public Instruction and also to the Vali himself on the subject, and they both assured me positively that not a single school in this vilayet is registered as Russian! This I have since discovered to be the simple truth.

When one considers that practically the whole of the Greek Orthodox and educational establishments of this province are financed and directed by the Russian Palestine Society, that many of the teachers, male and female, are Russian, and that not only is the teaching of that language now made obligatory, but even the instruction provided on certain subjects is conveyed in the Russian tongue, the, I may almost say, grotesqueness of the statement made to me by the Vali can hardly be paralleled.

The absurdity of the whole farce—for I can call it nothing else—consists in the fact that my Russian colleague himself always talks of "our schools!"

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 64.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 144.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April 29, 1902.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 173 of the 10th instant, reporting a conversation which you had had with the German Ambassador in regard to the participation of British capitalists in the projected railway to Bagdad and the Persian Gulf.

The language which you held to Baron von Marschall on that occasion has my approval.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 65.

International Permanent Peace Bureau to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received at Foreign Office April 30.)

Excellence, *Berne, le 24 Avril, 1902.*

A LA date du 3 Octobre, 1901, notre Bureau, exécutant une décision du Xe Congrès Universel de la Paix (Glasgow, 1901), avait pris la liberté d'attirer l'attention de votre Gouvernement sur la triste situation de la population Arménienne. Nous vous soumettions respectueusement l'idée de réunir une Conférence officielle pour la solution de cette question par l'application du projet de réforme élaboré, en Mai 1895, par les Gouvernements Anglais, Français, et Russe, et ratifié par le Sultan.

Dès lors, la situation ne s'est point améliorée et de nouveaux massacres sont encore à craindre, notamment dans la région du Sassoun.

Dans ces circonstances, nous prions instamment votre Excellence de prendre en sérieuse considération notre requête du 3 Octobre, 1901, que le XIe Congrès Universel de la Paix nous a chargés de renouveler auprès de votre Gouvernement, en vous conjurant aussi, comme mesure provisionnelle, de vous entendre avec les autres Gouvernements Signataires du Traité de Berlin pour que les Consuls de la Grande-Bretagne, de la France, et de la Russie, établis dans les villes les plus voisines du Sassoun, soient envoyés à Mousch, la présence de témoins Européens officiels étant seule de nature à empêcher le retour d'événements sanglants qui soulèvent l'indignation générale.

Confiants dans les sentiments d'humanité de votre Excellence, nous avons, &c.

Pour le Bureau International Permanent de la Paix :
Le Président,
(Signé) FREDRIK BEIJER.
Le Secrétaire Honoraire,
(Signé) ELIE DELCOMMUN.

No. 66.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 196.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 25, 1902.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Aleppo, reporting that four officers of the German army are about to make a survey of the country around the Gulf of Alexandretta.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 66.

Consul Barnham to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 23. Confidential.)
Sir, *Aleppo, April 12, 1902.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Vice-Consul Catoni has reported the arrival at Alexandretta of a Colonel and three officers of the German army, who are about to make a survey of the Plain of Issus and of the mountains which surround the Gulf of Alexandretta.

These officers have received permission from the Seraskierat to execute this work, and the local authorities have been instructed to give them every assistance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY D. BARNHAM.

No. 67.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 198.)
Constantinople, April 25, 1902.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 107 of the 9th March, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Damascus, reporting that the Archimandrite Iskander Tahhen has been elected Bishop of Adana, in succession to the Bishop-Elect Sighiricakis, who has resigned.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 67.

Consul Richards to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 46.)
Damascus, April 19, 1902.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 17 of the 24th February, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the Archimandrite Gerassimos Sighiricakis, the Bishop-Elect of Tarsus and Adana, having given in his resignation on the ground of his "unpopularity" with the majority of the Greeks of that diocese, it was accepted by the Patriarch, who was thus obliged to look for some one else to fill the vacancy. Choice was made of the Archimandrite Iskander Tahhan, of whom mention was made in my despatch No. 43 of the 11th instant, as one of the rival candidates for the See of Beirout. This person was elected Bishop of Tarsus and Adana on the 14th instant, and will be consecrated in due course.

From what I hear here it seems very doubtful whether the "Native" or "Russian" party, as it is sometimes called, is sufficiently numerous in that province to insure the acceptance of the Patriarch's nominee by the great majority of the members of the community. The objection to the Archimandrite Sighiricakis was based not so much, as I understand the matter, on personal grounds as on the consideration that, though a Greek, he was a nominee of the "Native" party, and, therefore, distasteful to them, independently of the fact that Bishop Germanos is still considered by a considerable number of the Adana Greeks to be their rightful and lawful Bishop. To persons of this way of thinking the fact that the new Bishop has spent four years in a convent in Moscow is not calculated to weigh in his favour.

As to this, however, your Excellency is, doubtless, much better informed from another quarter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 68.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 200.)
Constantinople, April 29, 1902.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 180 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Damascus, giving details of the election of the Archimandrite Gerassimos M'Sarra to the See of Beirout.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 68.

Consul Richards to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 43.)
Damascus, April 11, 1902.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 34 of the 25th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the Synod, consisting of the Bishops of Tripoli, Homs, Hama, Lattakia, the Lebanon and "Palmyra" (*in partibus*) met yesterday evening at the Patriarchate and elected the Archimandrite Gerassimos M'Sarra to the vacant See of Beirout. On the previous day a delegation consisting of three leading Greek Orthodox Notables of Beirout, named Lutfallah Bey Milki, Butros Effendi Daghen, and Theodori Effendi Jubeili, arrived here from that city in compliance with the express wish of the Patriarch, as stated in the despatch under reference.

I hear that the names of two other candidates for election were submitted to the Synod, in fulfilment of another condition laid down by the Patriarch, of which I believe I omitted to make mention in my despatch. These were Archimandrite Macarios Sawaya, of Beirout, a native of the Lebanon, who, it would seem, was a pupil and protégé of the late Bishop of that city, and a certain Iskander Tahhan, a Damascene, who after receiving his early education here was sent to complete his studies in Russia, and is now the Superior of what, I hear, is known as the "Antioch" convent in Moscow. I understand that the Bishop-Elect, M'Sarra, received five votes, which were given by the Bishops of Lattakia, the Lebanon, the Bishop of Tripoli voting by proxy for his brother Bishop of Diarbekir, and Bishop Abon Sh'ar, of "Palmyra," performing the same office for the absent Bishop of Hasbeya. The vote of the Bishop of Hama was also given by proxy in his favour. The Archimandrite Sawaya received the votes of the Bishops of Tripoli and Hama, while the Bishop of Homs gave his suffrage in favour of Iskander Tahhan.

It has been pointed out to me that the three principal Bishops, viz., those of Tripoli, Homs, and Hama, have the satisfaction of knowing that they voted, not for the objectionable (from their point of view) M'Sarra, but for his rival candidates, while, according to a preconcerted plan, it was left to the two junior Bishops of Lattakia and the Lebanon, supported by the two "proxies," to "eat the leek" and carry out the promise made by the Patriarch.

I am informed that the Patriarch and Bishops have been invited by the Beirout delegates to go and spend the season of Easter (old style) in that city, with a view to the consecration of the Bishop-Elect after that festival. On the other hand, it would appear that they (the members of the Synod) are making desperate efforts to obtain an Imperial Iradé sanctioning the separation of the Lebanon from Beirout before they proceed to consecrate Bishop M'Sarra.

I must apologize to your Excellency for the profusion of detail from which this despatch suffers, my only excuse being the very great interest which this election has excited throughout the country, and the fact that the result is looked upon as the first real check with which Russian policy has met for some years.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 69.

Foreign Office to International Permanent Peace Bureau.

Foreign Office, May 5, 1902.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to acknowledge the receipt of the letter which you addressed to the Marquess of Salisbury on the 24th ultimo on behalf of the XIth Universal Peace Congress, regarding the condition of the Armenian population of Asiatic Turkey.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 70.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 158.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 8, 1902.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 199 of the 26th ultimo, reporting that you have made unofficial representations to the Turkish Government on behalf of certain Armenians in the Vilayet of Aleppo, who declared themselves Moslems under compulsion during the disturbances in 1895, and who are now anxious to revert openly to Christianity.

Your action in the matter is approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 71.

[Question asked in the House of Commons, May 9, 1902.

Viscount Cranborne, in answer to Mr. Gibson Bowles, said His Majesty's Government had no information to the effect that Mr. Pierpont Morgan was a leading member of the Syndicate for carrying out the Concession granted by Turkey to Germany for the railway to be constructed through Asia Minor and thence to the Persian Gulf, nor had they any information showing that any English financiers were interested in that enterprise.

No. 72.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 12.)

(No. 209. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 5, 1902.*

IT was thought that the incident of the serious conflict which took place on the 4th November, 1901, in the court-yard of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem had been finally closed by the subsequent agreement between the Superior of the Franciscan monks in Palestine and the representative of the Greek Patriarchate, by which the respective rights of the Greek and Latin monks in the neighbourhood of the chapel which was the scene of the disturbance were defined and accepted by both parties. In his despatch No. 4 of the 15th January, copy of which was inclosed to your Lordship in my despatch No. 16 of the 18th January last, Mr. Consul Dickson anticipated that the judicial proceedings for procuring the punishment of the culprits in the affray would be dropped by mutual consent. The injured German Franciscans have, however, insisted on an investigation; and I learn that their case was to be heard on the 29th ultimo at Jerusalem.

It was proposed to and approved to by the Sublime Porte that the French and German Dragomans should attend the trial; but when this suggestion was made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs to the German Ambassador, his Excellency strongly demurred and asserted that his Government had never admitted the French claim of protection over German Roman Catholics in civil matters, although they were willing to admit it when there was merely a religious question at issue. Baron von Marschall further stated that the first case of the kind in which they were called upon for a decision occurred in 1873, and that his Government then upheld their view, and that they would now insist on the trial of the German Franciscans being carried on in the presence of the German Dragoman alone.

According to Tewfik Pasha, the Ambassador also maintained that the position of Germany in this question was different from that of Italy and other Powers who had on previous occasions recognized the French claim of protection of Catholics in Turkey.

The French Embassy was prepared to accept the presence of the German Dragoman side by side with the French Dragoman in the Turkish Court, but it has addressed to the Porte a strong remonstrance against the course which was actually taken of holding the investigation in the presence of the German Dragoman only.

I understand that the Italian Ambassador is also insisting on his countrymen who were concerned in the affray being tried in the presence of the Italian Dragoman, and that the Sublime Porte is making considerable opposition to this request.

The inevitable result of this controversy is to encourage the encroachments of the Orthodox at the expense of the Latin Church and thus to strain still further the cordiality of the Franco-Russian understanding, which already entails such heavy sacrifices on French policy and action in the Near East. It is morally certain that the Eastern Church, encouraged as it is by the dissensions in the Western Churches, will not be satisfied with the privileges which it now enjoys. France will be compelled either to give way and see her prestige disappear as the protector of the Catholic Church, or to take a firm stand against the movement supported by her ally.

The only British subject injured in the conflict within the precincts of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre was a Maltese, but, as no request for assistance has been received from him either by His Majesty's Embassy or, so far as I know, by His Majesty's Consulate at Jerusalem, I do not feel called upon to take any part in the discussion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 73.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 210.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 7, 1902.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 125 of the 17th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of the *note verbale* which I am addressing to the Sublime Porte, asking for the recognition of those British benevolent institutions in Turkey not already authorized by Imperial Firman.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 73.

Note Verbale.

THE Sublime Porte is aware that in the Ottoman dominions there exist numerous British churches, schools, hospitals, dispensaries, and other charitable institutions supported by voluntary contributions. The greater number of these establishments have, either by direct application of the founders to His Imperial Majesty the Sultan or at the request of His Majesty's Government, been provided with the necessary Firmans and permits, in accordance with the principles of religious tolerance and liberty which have from time immemorial distinguished the Imperial Ottoman Government.

There are, however, some of these establishments which, although always prepared to conform to the rules and regulations in force, have not heretofore full official recognition, and have for this reason been prevented from enjoying those immunities so generously granted to such institutions.

His Majesty's Government desires to see all these establishments placed on a proper and regular footing, and is convinced that this desire will meet with the entire approval of the Sublime Porte, which has recently regularized the position of other similar foreign establishments, both Catholic and Orthodox.

With this end in view, the Embassy has the honour to submit, for the information of the Sublime Porte, two lists: the one enumerating the institutions already authorized, which will continue to enjoy the privileges and immunities granted *ab antiquo;* and the other containing the names of similar establishments, for which the Embassy begs that authorization may now be granted in order that they, too, may enjoy the special treatment accorded by the Imperial Government to all benevolent institutions.

Constantinople, May 8, 1902.

Inclosure 2 in No. 73.

British Benevolent Institutions in the Ottoman Empire officially authorized.

	When Founded.	Date of Firman.
Presbyterian Church of England School, Aleppo	1854	1267 A.H.
Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland and Ireland School, Idlib..	1900	1850
English Protestant School, Bagdad	1896	April 10, 1896.
British Syrian Schools (thirteen), Beirut and Tyre	1860	1265
Edinburgh Galilee Mission—		
Medical Mission and school at Tiberias	..	27 Jemazi-ul-evel, 1309.
Hospital and school at Safed..	..	..
Jerusalem and the East Mission Fund: Hospital, church, and school at Haifa	..	14 Shaban, 1313.
Church Missionary Society—		
Church at Nablus	..	30 Cheval, 1308.
Hospital	1888	15 Rejeb, 1317.
Church at Nazareth	..	Moharrem 1282.
„ Shefa Amr	..	..
„ Kefr Yasif	..	..
Irish Presbyterian Mission—		
Church at Damascus	1866	13 Rebi-ul-evel, 1283 (1866).
Boys' school at Damascus	1817	14 (26) October, 1893 (1309).
Girls' school at Damascus	1833	„
School at Nebk	1857	20 (10) April, 1894 (1310).
„ Deirattiyé	1857	„
„ Yabrud	1869	„
„ Ain-esh-Shems	1863	11 (23) May, 1897 (1313).
Boys' and girls' schools at Rasheya	1863	„
School at Dabrelahmar	1873	„
„ Kurietein	1873	„
„ Bludan	1874	„
„ Urni	1878	„
„ Kefr Kuk	1882	„
British Syrian Schools—		
For girls (two) at Damascus	1867	1869
„ at Meidan	1868	1869
„ at Hasbeya	1863	1869
„ at Baalbek	1874	1869
Boys' school at Meidan	1875	1869
„ at Hamsta	1897	1869
Church Missionary Society (boys) School at Salt	1870	28 Aug. (9 Sept.), 1900 (1316).
Archbishop of Canterbury's Mission to the Assyrian Christians. Chapel and house at Kochanes	..	1895 and 1896.
Anglican Bishopric. Church, Bishop's house, and clergy house at Jerusalem	1894	13 Rejeb, 1311.
London Jews Society—		
Church at Jerusalem	1845	1 Ramazan, 1261.
Girls' school at Jerusalem	1856	10 Jemazi-ul-akhir, 1308.
Hospital and dispensary at Jerusalem	1844	29 Moharrem, 1311.
Church Missionary Society—		
Church	1872	22 Jemazi-ul-akhir, 1290.
Boys' boarding school	1853	14 July (1309).
Training institution for female teachers at Bethlehem	1878	14 Cheval, 1304.
Hospital and dispensary at Gaza	1886	28 Sefer, 1314.
Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England. Hospital and dispensary, Jerusalem..	1881	5 Jemazi-ul-akhir, 1299.
Miss Mungan's Mission to Jaffa. Hospital and dispensary	1879	4 Sefer, 1308.
Tabetha Mission. Boarding school for girls	1863	5 December (1313).
Anglo-Jewish Association. Girls' day school, Jerusalem	1873	28 October (1309).
Church of Scotland Mission, Salonica. Girls' school	1857	31 Aug. (12 Sept.), 1892 (1308).
Mr. Donaldson's school, Salonica	1888	1892
St. John the Evangelist Church, Smyrna..	1898	1313

	When Founded.	Date of Firman.
All Saints' Church, Boiya	1838	1281
Evangelical School, Smyrna	1733	1225 (1810)
British Seamen's Hospital	1897	1895
Free Church of Scotland. School for Jews, Galata	1842	15 Rebi-ul-akhir, 1260, and 10 Rebi-ul-akhir, 1314.
London Jews Society. School and church, Hasskeui	..	..
Crimean Memorial Church, Tophane	1863	..
English High School for girls, Pera	1858	1856 and 1900
School for Jews, Hasskeui	1845	1898
Church „ „	1845	..
Edinburgh Medical Mission. Hospital, Damascus	..	16 (28) March, 1889 (1305).

Inclosure 3 in No. 73.

British Benevolent and Religious Institutions in the Ottoman Empire not officially authorized.

	Date when Built or Founded.
Constantinople.	
Church of England Church, Kadikeuy	1876
Free Church of Scotland Medical Mission to Jews, Galata	1842
British Seamen's Hospital, Galata	..
Friends' Medical Mission and Orphanage, Koum Kapou .. (about)	1897
British and Foreign Bible Society, Koum Kapou .. .. (about)	1804
Aleppo.—Antioch.	
Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland and Ireland School ..	1876
Beirut.	
St. George's Training Home, Beirut	1866
Church of Scotland Mission. Boys' and girls' school	1865–1866
London Society for Promoting Christianity among Jews. Church, dispensary, and girls' school at Safed	1883
Evangelical Mission for Israel. Preaching and medical mission at Haifa	..
Church Missionary Society—	
Boys' and girls' school at Nablus	1856
„ „ Ratidie	1860
„ „ Zebabdeh	1874
Boys' school at Nusf Jebil	1874
„ Bourka	1884
„ Yoburg	1884
School at Nazareth..	..
„ Haifa	..
„ Acre	..
„ Shefa Amr	..
„ Kefr Yasif	..
London Society for Female Education in the East. Orphanage at Nazareth	..
Lebanon.	
British Syrian Schools at Anizehalta	..
„ „ Bekjaya	..
„ „ Makhmra	..
„ „ Zahlé	..
„ „ Shemlan	1859

	Date when Built or Founded.
Friends' Syrian Mission. School and hospital, Brummana	1873
Procter Mission. School, Schweifat	1886
Worsley Mission. School, Ain Anioub	1884
Wordsworth Smith Mission. Hospital, Bonklin	1887
Hospital for the Insane. Asylum, Asfurie	1899
Damascus.	
London Jews' Society. Church and school, Damascus	1873
Church Missionary Society—	
Church and dispensary, Salt	1880
Girls' school	..
Dispensary, Kerak	1889
Boys' school, El Husn (no regular permit)	1884
Girls' school, El Husn	1884
Boys' school, Judaide	1884
Archbishop of Canterbury's Mission to Assyrian Christians—	
House at Mergi	1890
House and school at Salabegan	1890
Jerusalem.	
Anglican Bishopric—	
Girls' school, Jerusalem	1888
Boys' choir and day school	1889
London Jews' Society—	
House of industry	1859
Boys' boarding school	1857
Mission house and chapel at Jaffa	1843
Church Missionary Society—	
Boys' day school and girl's day school, Jerusalem	1876
" " " Gaza	1868
Two boys' day schools, Jaffa	1860—1865
Infants' day school, Jaffa	1890
Church (hired house), Jaffa	1890
Boys' day school and girls' day school, Ramleh	1860
" " " Lydda	1860
" and church, Ramallah	1868—1878
Boys' day school, Tayibe	1878
Girls' " "	1879
Boys' " Jiffna	1880
Boys' and girls' school, Birzeit	1880
" " Abud	1878
United Free Church of Scotland Mission. Dispensary for out-patients at Hebron	1893
Smyrna.	
Church of Scotland Mission. Chapel, Smyrna	1858
St. Mary Magdalene Church, Bournabat	1868
English Commercial School, Smyrna	1872
English High School, Smyrna	1899
Miss Smith's School, Smyrna	1898
Church of Scotland Mission, Smyrna	1895
M. le Boulvier's School, Bournabat	1895
Miss Wilkin's School, Bournabat	1887
English School, Bouja	1891
Bevan-field Hospital, Smyrna	1882
Smyrna Protestant Cemetery, Smyrna	1875
Protestant Cemetery, Bournabat	1874
" " Bouja	1893
" " Rhodes	1862
Smyrna Rest Cemetery, Smyrna	1875
Tripoli.	
North Africa Mission. Dispensary, Tripoli	1887

No. 74.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 12.)

(No. 213. Confidential.)

Constantinople, May 7, 1902.

My Lord,

THE Sultan has appointed Faik Pasha to be Vali of Diarbekir in succession to Halid Bey, against whose methods of governing the province I have more than once protested to the Ottoman Government. Judging by the new Vali's past record the situation is not likely to be improved by the change. He obtained, by gross bribery, the office of Mutessarif of Ipek, was promoted to be Vali of Monastir and embarked in that position upon such a career of maladministration that he was dismissed in 1895 on the report of a Commission specially sent to report on his conduct. Since then he has been unemployed.

I have felt it my duty to speak seriously both to the Ottoman Foreign Minister and to the Grand Vizier against this appointment. I also drew the attention of the German and French Ambassadors to the subject, and I have learnt from Tewfik Pasha that Baron von Marschall had spoken to him in a similar sense. Tewfik Pasha accordingly drew the attention of the Sultan's Chief Secretary to the bad impression which had been produced by this nominaton. Tahsin Bey maintained that it was a good appointment, and that it was the Grand Vizier himself who had proposed Faik Pasha for the place. When I spoke to the Grand Vizier on the subject His Highness concurred fully with the view which I expressed that the best hope of an improved administration of the country lay in the selection of the ablest and most upright men who could be found as Governors and Judges, and in the more regular payment of official salaries. In former times his predecessors in office had had much to do with the filling of the higher administrative posts. But all this was now changed, and if the Grand Vizier was consulted at all his advice was generally disregarded. Thus, in the present case, what had really happened was that he had been asked to select the best candidate from a list of three names, viz., Tewfik Pasha (late Vali of Salonica), Assaf Pasha (Mutessarif of Erzingian and Acting Governor-General of Diarbekir), and Faik Pasha. Tewfik Pasha was His Highness' choice, but the next day Faik Pasha, whom he had considered the worst of the three, received the appointment.

In my interview with the Minister for Foreign Affairs I laid stress on the folly of still further vexing a province already so severely tried by the misgovernment of the late Vali that life had become well-nigh intolerable to large classes of its inhabitants.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 75.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 169.)

Foreign Office, May 16, 1902.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 213, Confidential, of the 7th instant, informing me that Faik Pasha has been appointed to be Vali of Diarbekir, and that in view of his antecedents you have considered it advisable to point out to the Grand Vizier and the Minister for Foreign Affairs that he is quite unsuitable for the post.

I approve your Excellency's action and the language which you held to Said Pasha and Tewfik Pasha in regard to this appointment.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 76.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May 19.*)

(No. 219.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 12, 1902.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch from Lieutenant-Colonel Maunsell, Military Attaché to the Embassy, reporting the mobilization of two Redif battalions in the Mosul district and the appointment of Munir Pasha as Commandant at Erzeroum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 76.

Lieutenant-Colonel Maunsell to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 14.)
Sir, *Constantinople, May 8, 1902.*

I HAVE the honour to report that in a conversation with the Minister of War yesterday he informed me that three Redif battalions had been mobilized in the Mosul district some two and a-half months ago and still remained with the colours.

The reason for their being called up was the insecurity of the country and roads between Mosul and Sulaimania caused by the Kurdish tribe of Hamawands, and also disturbances among the Yezidis, or devil worshippers, who inhabit the country north-east of Mosul and Jebel Singar to the west of that town.

The Hamawands are a comparatively small tribe, numbering not more than 500 or 600 horsemen, but well-mounted on Arabs, extremely active and energetic, and well-armed with Martinis or Russian magazine rifles.

For many years past they have harassed the communications between Mosul and Sulaimania, their head-quarters being at Bamian, between Kirkuk and Sulaimania.

When I passed through their country in 1888 the roads were most unsafe, and zaptiehs refused to accompany me.

According to the report of the Consular-Agent at Mosul of the 7th March, the state of affairs in Sulaimania appears to be worse than usual, and pillaging occurred in Sulaimania itself, the centre of Turkish government.

As regards the Yezidis, it will be remembered that, in September 1892, a certain Ferik Amr Pasha endeavoured to convert these people to Mahommedanism; but, after several of their Headmen were killed and much trouble caused, the attempt was finally abandoned. Except some of the nomad sections, they are, as a rule, an inoffensive people, not given to creating disturbance.

The Minister of War also informed me that it had now been decided to appoint Munir Pasha, Commandant of Redifs at Diarbekir, to the command of the 7th Nizam Division at Erzeroum.

Munir Pasha served in the Crimean war; was for some fifteen years in command of the 8th Nizam Division at Van, where he proved himself amiable and was well liked, but quite wanting in energy, firmness and decision, and was removed to Diarbekir to make room for a more energetic man and better soldier.

It must have been, therefore, entirely through his Palace influence that he was appointed to such an important command as that of Erzeroum and the Russian frontier districts.

The Minister of War quite agreed that he was too old and unfitted for such a post, and could only hope that he would soon be induced to retire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. MAUNSELL, *Lieutenant-Colonel, Military Attaché.*

No. 77.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May 26.*)

(No. 225.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 19, 1902.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 166 of the 8th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Damascus respecting the official recognition of Russian schools in Syria and Palestine.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 77.

Consul Richards to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 57.)
Sir, *Damascus, May 7, 1902.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 41 of the 8th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the Director of Public Instruction here has recently received an official communication from the Minister of Public Instruction at Constantinople, informing him that the Council of Ministers had met and considered a Memorandum, emanating from the Russian Embassy, the gist of which is as follows:—

In view of the fact that the French Government had come to an understanding with the Porte, in accordance with which all the existing Catholic schools in Syria and Palestine would henceforth be officially recognized and placed under the protection of France, the Russian Ambassador, at the request of the Grand Duke Sergius, as President of the Palestine Society, had made a formal demand that all the Greek Orthodox schools existing in Syria and Palestine—eighty-seven in all—should in like manner be recognized as under Russian protection, and, with that object in view, should be placed under the administrative supervision of the Palestine Society, of which the Grand Duke Sergius is the head.

The Council of Ministers having duly considered this request had decided that it should be granted, and the Russian Ambassador had been communicated with in this sense. In consequence of the Ministerial decision, a Vizirial order had been sent to the Minister of Public Instruction embodying an Imperial Iradé to this effect, the same being in turn communicated by the Minister of Public Instruction to the Director of that Department here.

The number of Greek Orthodox schools in this vilayet which will be affected by this order is twenty-seven, the remaining sixty being situated in the Vilayet of Beyrout and the Mutessarifliks of the Lebanon and Jerusalem.

This is undoubtedly a signal victory for Russian policy in this country, but I venture to doubt whether its fruits will be so keenly appreciated and enjoyed by the more thoughtful and intelligent members of the various Greek communities throughout the country as it naturally is by those who are the most immediately interested. Signs are not wanting of a growing tendency to kick against this all-pervading influence, even in quarters where loyalty to the "benefactress" was unquestioned a year or two ago.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

P.S.—I have just succeeded in obtaining a copy of the official letter received by the Director of Public Instruction from Constantinople, which I beg to inclose herewith, it being materially impossible for me, owing to the departure of the mail, to accompany it by a regular translation.

W. S. R.

Inclosure 2 in No. 77.

Letter addressed to the Minister of Public Instruction at Damascus.

A *pro-memorid* has been received from the Russian Embassy stating that a society had been formed under the Presidency of the Grand Duke Sergius Alexandrovich, to meet the necessities of the Orthodox in Palestine and Syria, and that accordingly eighty-seven schools, most of them primary, had been founded in those parts, and further requesting that in conformity with the friendly relations subsisting between the two Powers, the legal existence of such schools should be recognized by the Imperial Government, and that the same rights and privileges should be granted to them as had been accorded to the schools belonging to the French. This *pro-memorid* was submitted to the Council of Ministers, and after consideration it was decided that, as it had been determined previously to grant permits to such schools as from the list presented by the French Embassy containing the name and description of schools of French nationality or under French protection and managed by private persons or monks were found, after examination, not to have yet been granted official permits, and as the Russian Embassy requested that the favour shown to the French Government should serve as a precedent, and that the eighty-seven schools aforesaid should obtain official recognition of their existence, and be admitted to the same rights and privileges, and in accordance with the principle that subject to the lawful limitations education is free in Turkey, no objection existed to this course, and as it was clearly stated in the *pro-memorid* that the schools were under the direction of the Palestine Society under the Presidency of the Grand Duke Sergius, and as the Russian Ambassador stated that his Government did not claim in respect of such schools the right of protection required by France, it was right that the existence of the said schools should be recognized. This decision being submitted to His Imperial Majesty, an Iradé confirming it was issued, and the Vizierial letter of the 28th February, 1317, reporting this instructed me to carry out its prescriptions. The list is forwarded herewith, and I have to request you to comply with the terms of the Imperial Iradé.

No. 78.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 229.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 19, 1902.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 209 of the 5th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Acting Consul at Jerusalem, reporting that the charges brought against Ottoman monks by German monks in connection with the affray at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre last autumn are to be investigated in the presence of the German, not the French, Consular Dragoman.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 78.

Acting Consul Monahan to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 15.)
Sir, *Jerusalem, May 2, 1902.*

WITH reference to my telegram of the 25th ultimo, I have the honour to report that the investigation of the charge against Ottoman monks brought by German monks who were wounded in the affray at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre last November was commenced by the Mustentik (Juge d'Instruction) on the 24th ultimo in the presence of the Dragoman of the German Consulate, and of no other Dragoman, the case which had been fixed for the 29th ultimo having been hurried on at the request of the German Consul, and the pretension that the monks were under French protection in the matter having been successfully resisted in accordance with instructions from the German Embassy. The Italian Consul here informed me that he was awaiting similar instructions from his Embassy in regard to the wounded Italian monks. I sent the telegram at his suggestion.

The case of the Maltese wounded monk will probably not come on as he has brought no regular charge. Moreover (as Mr. Consul Dickson has reported in his despatch No. 61 of the 6th November, 1901) he has not been registered as a British subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. MONAHAN.

No. 79.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 230.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 19, 1902.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 209 of the 5th instant, I have the honour to forward the accompanying copy of a despatch from Mr. Richards, His Majesty's Consul at Damascus, in connection with the question of the claim of France to protect all members of Roman Catholic religious Corporations in Turkey, whatever their nationality.

Mr. Richards reports that his French colleague having disputed the right of the Italian Consular Representative to be present at the trial of a young Greek accused of the murder of an Italian Catholic priest, the matter was referred to the Council of State, and that in pursuance of the Council's decision, the hearing of the case took place in the presence of the Italian Consular Representative to the exclusion of his French rival.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 79.

Consul Richards to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 58.)
Sir, *Damascus, May 7, 1902.*

AN incident occurred in the little town of Ajlun, to the south of Damascus, about two months ago which has had consequences, a short account of which may, I venture to think, prove to be not without a certain interest for your Excellency.

An Italian priest of the name of Carello was murdered, in the place mentioned, by a young Greek, apparently an act of revenge on account of the former's opposition to certain matrimonial projects cherished by the latter. On the old established principle that France "protects" in the East all members of Catholic religious Corporations whatever their nationality, my French colleague sent his Dragoman to Ajlun to strengthen the hands of justice and to be present at any judicial examination of the person or persons accused of the murder. At the same time the Italian Consul-General at Beyrout, in view of the undisputed nationality of the victim of the outrage, sent his Canccllier to Ajlun to take steps similar to those in which the French Dragoman was engaged. The suspected persons, for it appears that the young Greek had accomplices, were duly arrested and examined by the Juge d'Instruction, both the Italian Cancellier and the French Dragoman being present at the inquiry.

In the course of time the case came on for trial here, whereupon my French colleague contested the right of the Italian Consular Representative to be present during the hearing of the case, a privilege which he maintained could only be enjoyed by his Dragoman. The Italian Consul-General refused absolutely to recognize any such pretensions, and it being found impossible to arrange the dispute amicably, the matter was referred to the Vali, and by him again to Constantinople. The Council of State (Shoura-i-Deolet) has, it appears, duly considered the case and decided that it is the Italian Consular Representative who is entitled to be present at the hearing of the

case to the exclusion of his French rival. Action was taken in conformity with this decision, and the accused person was in due course found guilty and sentenced to death, while, as to his three accomplices, it does not seem quite clear whether they were acquitted altogether, or whether they escaped with comparatively light sentences. This, of course, is of no special concern, the only point of any interest being the argument on which the Ministerial decision was based, which was, it would appear, to the effect that it was the Italian man who had been murdered and not the French-protected Catholic priest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 80.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 233. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 19, 1902.

AFTER writing my despatch No. 210 of the 7th instant, I thought it well to defer presenting the *note verbale* asking for the formal recognition of British schools, &c., in Turkey until I learned that its terms were approved by your Lordship. As I have since slightly changed its wording, I now forward a copy in its amended form, and I propose to await your Lordship's approval before presenting it to the Sublime Porte.

The accompanying copy of M. Zinoview's communication to the Porte demanding the recognition of Russian schools, which I have obtained confidentially, may be of interest to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 80.

Note Verbale.

THE Sublime Porte is aware that in the Ottoman dominions there exist numerous British churches, schools, hospitals, dispensaries, and other charitable institutions, supported by voluntary contributions. The greater number of these establishments have, either by direct application of the founders to His Imperial Majesty the Sultan or at the request of His Majesty's Government, been provided with the necessary Firmans and permits, in accordance with the principles of religious tolerance and liberty.

There are, however, some of these establishments which, although always prepared to conform to the Rules and Regulations in force, have not heretofore obtained full official recognition, and have, for this reason, been prevented from enjoying those immunities so generously granted to such institutions.

His Majesty's Embassy desires to see all these establishments placed on a proper and regular footing, and is convinced that this desire will meet with the entire approval of the Sublime Porte, which has recently regularized the position of other similar foreign establishments both Catholic and Orthodox.

With this end in view, the Embassy has the honour to submit, for the information of the Sublime Porte, two lists, the one enumerating the institutions already authorized which will continue to enjoy the privileges and immunities granted *ab antiquo*, and the other containing the names of similar establishments for which the Embassy begs that authorization may now be granted in order that they, too, may enjoy the special treatment accorded by the Imperial Government to all benevolent institutions.

Constantinople, May , 1902.

Inclosure 2 in No. 80.

Notice.

LA plupart des Grandes Puissances Occidentales possèdent en Turquie depuis bien longtemps des écoles et des établissements de bienfaisance, destinés à venir en aide aux populations Chrétiennes de l'Empire Ottoman. La France seule, ainsi qu'il a été constaté dernièrement, en possède à l'heure qu'il est près de 600. Les établissements scolaires et hospitaliers Protestants de différentes nationalités ne sont pas moins nombreux.

Le bien-être moral de la population Orthodoxe de l'Empire Ottoman a été de tout temps l'objet de la plus vive sollicitude tant du Gouvernement Impérial de Russie que de la Société Russe. En 1881, une Société spéciale avait été fondée à Saint-Pétersbourg sous la dénomination de "Société de Palestine" pour aviser aux moyens de satisfaire aux besoins les plus pressants des Orthodoxes de Palestine et de Syrie. La direction de cette Société, qui est placée à l'heure qu'il est sous la présidence de Son Altesse Impériale Mgr. le Grand-Duc Serge Alexandrovitch, n'a pas tardé à constater que, à défaut d'écoles nationales, les Orthodoxes se voyaient obligés de placer leurs enfants dans des écoles hétérodoxes, d'où ces enfants sortaient pour la plupart du temps imbus de doctrines religieuses incompatibles avec la foi Orthodoxe. C'est pour remédier à ce mal que la Société de Palestine a cru devoir procéder à l'établissement d'écoles, pour la plupart primaires, où l'enseignement est pratiqué en conformité des préceptes de l'Orthodoxie.

Ces écoles, ainsi qu'il résulte de la liste ci-jointe, sont au nombre de quatre-vingt-sept. Leur existence légale n'a pas encore été reconnue par le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, mais l'Ambassade Impériale de Russie se plaît à espérer que, eu égard aux relations d'amitié qui existent heureusement entre les deux Empires voisins, le Gouvernement Ottoman voudra bien accorder sa sanction aux dites écoles Russes et les doter des droits et privilèges qui sont accordés à d'autres établissements de la même catégorie et entre autres aux établissements Français.

Le 5 (18) *Février*, 1902.

No. 81.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 237. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 20, 1902.

NAOUM PASHA, Governor of the Lebanon since 1892, is now approaching the end of his second term of office, which commenced in 1897. His place will have to be filled up in August next in the usual manner, that is, by the nomination of the Sublime Porte with the previous concurrence of the Embassies.

As always happens, I have received a series of Petitions against the reappointment of the out-going Governor, who is freely accused by his enemies of every vice of maladministration. His Majesty's Consul-General at Beirut has also furnished me with reports, pointing out the short-comings of the present system of Government in the Lebanon, and how, in his opinion, they could be remedied.

In Mr. Drummond Hay's opinion, Naoum Pasha is possessed of many estimable qualities, and has really desired to do his duty. He has proved, however, a weak Governor, allowing too often the spirit and even the letter of the Settlement of 1861 to be slighted, to the disturbance of the peace and order of the Mountain.

It is certainly not desirable that he should embark upon a third term of Governorship, and I fully agree with Mr. Drummond Hay that the five years' term instituted by the Protocol of 1892 should be strictly adhered to in future. The ten years' period fixed by the Protocol of 1868 and maintained till 1892 gave indifferent results, the Governors invariably tending to fall off in zeal and efficiency, and to develop a bias during the latter years of their term of office. Naoum Pasha, who was appointed for five years but maintained for a second term, has proved no exception to the rule.

A detailed account by His Majesty's Consul-General at Beirut of the present condition of the Lebanon was forwarded with my despatch No. 165, Confidential, of the 5th May, 1900, to Lord Salisbury. In this, and more recent reports, Mr. Drummond

Hay has pointed out the various questions which seem to require attention in the Lebanon district, and he has furnished suggestions for the removal of some of the existing grievances. I am bearing these points in mind, and hope I may have an opportunity of calling the attention of the new Governor to them; but in the Lebanon, as in other parts of the Turkish dominions, I attach more importance to the selection of capable Governors than to the composition of elaborate rules for their guidance.

I trust, therefore, that an honest and efficient candidate for this Governorship may be forthcoming. Some of the names mentioned would certainly not be acceptable, especially that of the Turkish Minister of Mines and Forests, Selim Pasha Melhamé, whom I consider to be quite disqualified by his record in his present office, apart from his being a Maronite. It is also desirable, if possible, to avoid taking another Governor from the family of Franco Pasha, who was in office from 1868 to 1878. Naoum Pasha is his son-in-law, and has governed in the interest of his clique, and two of Franco Pasha's sons are now in the field as candidates, one of them enjoying considerable Palace support. In the case of previous appointments, the six Embassies have found no difficulty in accepting the Turkish nominees. It is to be hoped that in the present case the Porte will be equally careful to put forward an acceptable candidate, but there is some reason to fear that this time the nomination will originate at the Palace, and that personal considerations will be allowed to prevail over regard for the real interests of the country.

I may remind your Lordship that the Règlement of the Lebanon of 1864, which is now in force, merely provides in Article 1 that the Christian Governor is "nommé par la Sublime Porte en relevant d'elle directement." Nothing is said in it of the concurrence of the Powers in the nomination. In the Protocol, however, of the 9th June, 1861, it is stated that three months before the expiration of the Governor's term of office the Porte "avant d'aviser provoquera une nouvelle entente avec les Représentants des Puissances," and it has become a regular practice to insert in the Protocols which are drawn up on the occasion of each appointment that "les Représentants des Puissances Signataires . . . . ont été unanimes pour constater . . . . l'accord préalable qui, à l'occasion de cette nomination, s'est établi entre eux et la Sublime Porte." It is clearly established, therefore, that the approval of the Embassies must be obtained in every instance.

I propose to keep a careful watch on the list of candidates, and to point out to the Sublime Porte any names which I should consider it my duty to oppose.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 82.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 185.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, May 29, 1902.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 233, Confidential, of the 19th instant, and I approve the terms of the *note verbale* which you propose to address to the Turkish Government asking for the formal recognition of the British churches, schools, hospitals, and other charitable Institutions in the Turkish Empire.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 83.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 186. Confidential.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, May 29, 1902.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 237, Confidential, of the 20th instant, on the question of the choice of a successor to Naoum Pasha, Governor of the Lebanon, whose term of office will expire shortly.

I approve your proposal to keep a careful watch on the list of candidates, and to indicate to the Turkish Government the names of any persons whom you would consider it your duty to oppose.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 84.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 7.)

(No. 66.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, June 7, 1902.*

A PARTIAL arrangement of the differences between the French and German groups interested in the Bagdad Railway scheme has been reached between Count Vitalis, acting for the former, and Dr. Zander, the doctor undertaking to recommend the system of construction "à forfait" for acceptance.

Would it not be well to present formally at the meeting of the Franco-German Syndicates, to be held in Paris on the 20th, the British demands, so that we may know our position?

Would you inform Dawkins of the foregoing.

I am writing to him to-day under cover to you.

No. 85.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 9.)

(No. 249.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, June 2, 1902.*

IN my despatch No. 118 of the 17th March last, I informed your Lordship that, on a report from the Acting Vice-Consul at Van, I had called the attention of the Grand Vizier to the unsatisfactory state of the Hekkiari district, for which the Mutessarif Zia Bey was stated to be in large measure responsible.

I have now received a further despatch from Mr. Satow, reporting Zia Bey's removal from the district, and the appointment in his place, as Acting Mutessarif, of Fuad Bey, whom Mr. Satow describes as a man of liberal views.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 86.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 193.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, June 12, 1902.

I HAVE received Sir N. O'Conor's despatch No. 249 of the 2nd instant, informing me that Zia Bey, whom his Excellency had represented to the Turkish Government as in great measure responsible for the unsatisfactory condition of the Hekkiari, had been removed from the office of Mutessarif of that district.

I have heard with satisfaction of this decision.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 87.

Question asked in the House of Commons, June 13, 1902.

Mr. H. Lewis (Flint Boroughs),—To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether all claims by British subjects against the Turkish Government in respect of losses incurred during the Armenian massacres and the disturbances incidental thereto at Constantinople had been settled.

Answer.

His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople has reported that these claims have been paid.

No. 88.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 16.)

(No. 268.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, June 7, 1902.*

CERTAIN differences which had arisen between the German and French groups interested in the Bagdad Railway are said to have been partially got over by the acceptance on the part of the Germans of the method of construction known as the system *à forfait*, and a meeting in Paris has been fixed for the 20th instant, at which it is hoped that a final settlement will be reached.

I learn that it is now proposed to raise the capital required for the construction of the line by means of the issue of Turkish State bonds to the face value of £ T. 32,000,000.

The issue price at about 80 would produce something over the £ T. 24,000,000 needed.

The interest on the bonds to be secured on the eventual increase of the customs duties consequent upon the proposed new Treaties.

What shape these arrangements will finally take cannot yet be foretold with certainty, but I venture to think that the opportunity should not be lost of bringing before the meeting at Paris any proposals which the British financiers interested in the question may think it desirable to make.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 89.

Question asked in the House of Commons June 19, 1902.

Mr. Schwann,—To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether he has any information as to alleged plundering and burning of houses in the Armenian village of Norschen, near Mush, by Kurds and Turkish troops, and also of maltreatment of men and outraging of women on the same occasion:

Whether he has any information showing that outrages of a similar character are threatened in Sasun; and will he inquire and state what steps he proposes to take?

Answer.

According to reports from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Bitlis, in January last a party of Armenian revolutionists who had taken refuge in the village of Norshen were attacked by Turkish troops and Kurds. The revolutionists managed to escape after killing one officer and wounding another. The troops and Kurds are said to have afterwards plundered the village and ill-treated the inhabitants, but the report has not been verified.

His Majesty's Government have no information leading them to believe that disturbances are imminent in the Sasun district, but inquiry shall be made.

No. 90.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 300.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June 30, 1902.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit the accompanying copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Bitlis, reporting the trial of Faris Agha, a Kurd, on charges brought against him by the Armenian inhabitants of Kultik, a village near Bitlis.

I have ventured to trouble your Lordship with this despatch as throwing light on the condition of the district of Bitlis

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Inclosure in No. 90.

Vice-Consul Freeman to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 7.)

Sir, *Bitlis, June 7, 1902.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 3 to Mr. Lamb of the 5th November, 1901, on the subject of the arrest of a Kurd named Faris (Farso) Agha, in consequence of charges brought against him by the inhabitants of Kultik, a village near Bitlis, I have the honour to report that the case came on for trial on the 1st May before the Bitlis Court of Appeal and terminated in eight sittings on the 2nd instant, the defendant being sentenced to two years' imprisonment and a fine of £ T. 3.

Faris was accused of having—

1. Extorted money, grain, and other property, by violence and threats, from the people of Kultik, including nearly 1,000 piastres worth of stone from a widow;

2. Outraged four young married women; and

3. Beaten and threatened to kill the Headman and the schoolmaster of the village.

The complainants numbered nineteen, and their witnesses twenty-four, all forty-three being Armenians. The defendant called seventeen witnesses, all Kurds from villages other than Kultik; fourteen of these gave evidence as to character; the remaining three swore to the defendant having paid for the stone.

The Public Prosecutor asked for the conviction of the accused on all the charges except (1) the violation of two of the women, and (2) some of the charges of extortion. He maintained that Faris had forcibly carried off the other two women to the mountains.

The Court set aside as not proved the greater number of the first group of charges, also finding that some of these questions, including that of the ownership of the stone, concerned the Civil Courts. The second charge was dismissed by the minority vote of the two Kurdish Assessors, as against that of the President and the two Armenian Assessors, a minimum of four votes being necessary to entail a conviction. The accused was found guilty on the third count, with the addition of a few charges of extortion, and was sentenced under Article 179 of the Criminal Law as having been convicted of misdemeanour ("jünha") only.

I have been unable to ascertain whether the Public Prosecutor has given notice of appeal to the Court of Cassation, but I understand that Faris has applied, and that he will also be admitted to bail in the sum of £ T. 60. He will probably have no difficulty in finding sureties.* In the meantime, the costs of this first trial have to be borne by the complainants.

Looking at the case as a whole, I have been forced to the conclusion that the charges brought against Faris were true, that the trial was, as usual, sheer make-believe, and that the least serious of his offences was selected beforehand with the view of inflicting a punishment calculated to avert the unfavourable comments which an acquittal might evoke elsewhere, and yet be a virtual triumph for the Agha and his friends. I believe it is no exaggeration to say that Faris has been a robber and tyrant who might almost be compared with the notorious Musa Bey, and that his cruelties towards the inhabitants of Kultik continued to the date of his arrest. It is said that he began by deserting when called to the ranks; that he was captured with some difficulty six months after and sent to Yemen; that he escaped again, disguised in European clothes, and returned home; that he was sent to prison for some other offence, and escaped six months after; that he has murdered both Kurds and Armenians; that he has been in prison at Van and Mush, as well as Bitlis, and has always escaped or been released before the completion of his term; that five or six years ago he carried off his wife's sister, a married woman, to the mountains, and now keeps her as his wife, together with his lawful wife, in defiance of the "Shor'i" Laws. I cannot vouch for the truth of these accusations, though the recent disclosures seem to lend colour to them. The illegal exactions of Faris are as much of a commonplace as those of most Kurdish Aghas. But the Aghas look upon the Armenians as their lawful prey, and the authorities connive at their misdeeds, secretly approving the repression, by oppression, of the subject race. Faris has been the "Kol Mudiri" of Kultik for the last five years, and has no doubt proved useful in that capacity. The evasive and contradictory evidence which was to be expected from ignorant peasants afraid to tell the whole truth, and perhaps also the normal

* I have just heard that Faris has been released on bail.—(Signed) F. G. F.

state of indebtedness of an Armenian village, afforded the Court a sufficient pretext for rejecting most of the charges of extortion. The women of Kultik have a bad reputation, but it would be difficult to say whether this is the consequence or was the cause of Faris' brutality. Under these circumstances, and under present conditions, the evidence of the four women and that of their witnesses, especially as the two whose complaint the Public Prosecutor declined to press appear to have had but one witness, could have no weight whatever with the two Mussulman Assistant Judges, one of them a "Haji" and the other a "Molla," and Faris' conviction of so grave a charge as rape was out of the question.

I beg permission to add that there is no doubt in my mind of the complicity of the Vali Husni Bey in this compromise between justice to one side and surrender to the other. Shortly before the conclusion of the trial I availed myself of an opportunity to refer to the anxiety with which the possible acquittal of Faris was awaited. "Oh," replied his Excellency, "but I shall require bail." He then went on to say that at the preliminary examination Faris had admitted that he had been wild in his young days, but denied the present charges. This denial evidently satisfied his Excellency. On other occasions he has laid stress on the equality of all before the Law, and on his own inability to interfere in the course of justice; so that he showed his hand in saying that he himself would require bail in this case. The Kurds despise the Vali as a "korkak" (poltroon) to the same extent as the Armenians tremble for their own safety under his irresolute administration. In this connection I may be allowed to cite one case out of many which show how little notice is taken of the existence of the Local Government.

For some three years past a certain Sheikh Mehmed has been the tithe-farmer of a small village named Khambelchur, within an hour's ride from Bitlis, and he appears to be allowed an entirely free hand in enriching himself by the customary methods so long as he contributes the necessary quota to the revenue. A few days ago, when I was honoured by a visit from the Vali, I asked leave to recommend to his consideration the case of the inhabitants of Khambelchur, who, I had heard on good authority, had presented four successive Petitions praying for protection against the Sheikh and his ruffianly servants, but had got no redress. His Excellency pretended never to have heard of Khambelchur, and asked whether I meant Kabiljevaz, in Sasun. On returning his call, I told Husni Bey that a number of men, women, and children had come in from the village the evening before. I added that I had previously heard nothing against Sheikh Mehmed, but that if such acts of oppression as were alleged were committed under the eye of the central authority, much worse things might happen in distant parts of the province. The Vali again gave himself away by referring to a Petition received from the village some weeks before, and by interrupting me with the exclamation, "But I tell you, Sheikh Mehmed is a bad man." (I afterwards learned that the Vali received the men that day, and sent back the women and children to Khambelchur under escort. The latter had, no doubt, been brought by way of adding a little theatrical effect when the fifth Petition was thrust forward as the Vali rode on his mule to the Government House.) Due allowance being made for the usual exaggeration in the tale of Sheikh Mehmed's tyranny, and even putting aside the alleged murder of a villager by one of his men last year, it seems at least clear that he aims at the gradual appropriation of the place, which is an ideal spot for quiet contemplation, lying as it does in a pretty glen by the side of a rippling brook, and fronted by terraces of well-kept fields. The people seem to have borrowed £ T. 29 from the Public Debt Office, giving some, if not all, of their land as security. The usual notice was sent to them when payment became due, with the usual result; they could not read the notice; they found it convenient to forget that the time was up, and did not send the money. When they realized that their fields were going from them, they borrowed again at exorbitant interest. But the Sheikh had been too quick for them, buying up the mortgage as soon as he heard of their predicament. It is, perhaps, significant that he completed this transaction only a few days ago, when it was generally anticipated that only a nominal sentence would be imposed on Faris Agha. Whether the Vali will allow Sheikh Mehmed, though a "bad man," to retain his place as tithe-farmer remains to be seen.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. G. FREEMAN.

No. 91.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 305.)

Therapia, July 1, 1902.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 281 of the 17th ultimo, I learn that M. Rouvier has now replied to the communication made to him in conformity with the Imperial Iradé expressing the Sultan's desire that certain amendments should be made in the proposed unification scheme. It is understood that he has pointed out difficulties in the way of reducing the nominal capital from £ T. 32,000,000 to £ T. 30,000,000, and insisted on the administration of the Public Debt being guaranteed the full revenue of £ T. 2,289,000, required to insure the payment of all the annual charges of the new stock. I have not heard what was his reply to a further suggestion contained in the Iradé, but not reported in my above-mentioned despatch, that the Public Debt should be required to pay into the sinking fund the whole of the share of future increments in the Customs receipts, &c., which will be retained by that Administration under the new arrangement, viz., 25 per cent. of such increment, the remaining 75 per cent. going to the Turkish Treasury.

The upshot of M. Rouvier's answer, however, is believed to be that he asks for a free hand to deal with the foreign Syndicates as he thinks best, on the lines of his original proposal, and that he promises, if this be conceded, to get the best terms he can for the Sublime Porte. I am informed that the negotiation will no longer be carried on in the name of M. Rouvier, now that he has taken office in the French Government, but that he will be replaced either by Messrs. Rothschild or by Messrs. Hottinguer. The former firm would be preferred, but is said to fear giving offence to Russia by undertaking a financial operation designed to facilitate the construction of the Bagdad Railway.

The German Ambassador informed me a few days ago in conversation that, in his opinion, M. Rouvier will be given full liberty of action, and that the success of the operation is now very probable, though it still meets with opposition from Russian sources, and though some concessions may have to be made to holders of the B Series, whose bonds are redeemable in eight years, and who require therefore a greater inducement to part with their stock than the holders of the other series which have still a long period of years to run. His Excellency added that the Sultan's only hesitation proceeded from a fear that the warnings of the opponents of the measure, who tell him that it will lead to foreign financial control, may prove true. Baron von Marschall, on the other hand, had assured the Sultan that the very opposite was the case and that there was no surer means of escaping from the chronic financial embarrassment of the present time, which if unrelieved must bring about a catastrophe followed by foreign intervention, than the proposal now under consideration.

The following figures have been shown me as giving the outline of the Rouvier scheme as it stands at present, but I cannot vouch for their accuracy:—

	Present Nominal Capital.	Present Quotation.	To be exchanged for new Bonds for Nominal Amount of—	Representing Nominal Value of—
	£ T.			£ T.
B Series	5,000,000	51	66	3,800,000
C "	29,000,000	28	37	10,730,000
D "	46,000,000	26	35	15,750,000
	79,000,000			29,780,000

The total nominal value of the new issue is to be £ T. 32,000,000 in 4 per cent. bonds with a ¾ per cent. sinking fund. This is £ T. 2,220,000 in excess of the amount required to replace existing bonds, the surplus going to cover expenses and to leave a profit for the Turkish Treasury.

Service of interest and sinking fund of the new bonds would require £ T. 1,520,000;
Service, &c., of Lots, Tures, now requiring £ T. 173,281, would require £ T. 240,000;
Service of Priority Loan (as at present) requires £ T. 430,000;
making an annual total charge of £ T. 2,190,000.

The Public Debt is to be guaranteed by the Ottoman Government a net revenue of £ T. 2,289,000, or about £ T. 100,000 a-year over the precise figure of the new annual charges. Its net revenue at present is about £ T. 2,105,000 a-year on an average.

Future increase in the Customs revenue is to be divided between the Ottoman Treasury and the Public Debt in the proportion of 75 per cent. and 25 per cent. respectively.

On the extinction of the Priorities in 1931 the annual sum now paid on their account to be divided between the Lots Turcs and the sinking fund of the new general Stock.

The following rough calculation has been made showing the position of the bondholders.

On the supposition that the new £ T. 100 bond will be quoted at 80, the market value of the £ T. 66 new stock given for each old £ T. 100 bond should be about 52·80, or somewhat more than the present market quotation of the old bond, say 51.

At the present rate of extinction under the Muharrem Decree, the B Stock outstanding in eight years' time will be redeemed at £ T. 66·66. In the meantime it will have received 1 per cent. interest, or £ T. 8 in all on each bond, not including compound interest.

Under the new conditions contemplated by the Rouvier scheme, the new unredeemable bond will be worth, in eight years' time, say £ T. 52·80, and it will have drawn in the meantime 4 per cent. interest on £ T. 66; viz., about £ T. 21·12.

It will be seen that by this calculation there is not much to choose between the old stock and the new, and the bondholders will doubtless hold out for better terms.

The main advantage to which the Turkish Treasury can look forward under a scheme of this character is the large prospective share in the eventual increase of the Customs revenue under the new Treaties, which increase would entirely accrue under the Muharrem Decree to the Public Debt. This additional revenue is to constitute the principal guarantee for the interest on the State bonds which it is now intended to issue in order to secure the capital required for the Bagdad Railway. In other words, the capital for the Bagdad Railway is to be raised on the security of an increase in the revenues of Turkey which is to be brought about by means of a new Tariff. Under the Muharrem Decree a new and higher Tariff would not directly benefit the Turkish Treasury. The consent of the bondholders must therefore be obtained to a modification of the Muharrem Decree in such a way as to transfer from the Public Debt to the Turkish Treasury the increased revenues derivable from the new Tariff. It is to secure this end that the Rouvier conversion scheme has been devised, and it remains to be seen if the bondholders will fall in with it.

It also remains to be seen whether the Powers will consent to a new Tariff. Your Lordship is aware that Germany long since gave her consent by signing her Treaty with Turkey in 1880. France has elaborated a new Treaty, but it has not yet been submitted to the Chamber. Austria is making no progress in her negotiations, which, indeed, have been practically abandoned. Russia is avowedly hostile at present to a new Treaty. This Embassy has concluded its preliminary study of the question, but, until it has been decided whether British co-operation in the Bagdad Railway will be accepted on terms agreeable to the British financiers desiring to take part in it, it will, I presume, remain a point for consideration whether the British Treaty negotiation with Turkey should be proceeded with or not.

Until unification has been accomplished, or, at all events, rendered certain, it is doubtful whether the Porte will desire to resume negotiations. Its energies are at present entirely absorbed in the unification. But, in the event of the Treaty question coming up, the attitude of His Majesty's Embassy should, perhaps, be determined by the following considerations.

If equal participation in the Bagdad Railway had been secured there can be no objection to the signature of a new Treaty.

If equal participation is not secured, it would seem undesirable to contribute at the cost of British imports to an increased revenue, which will feed an entirely foreign and, perhaps, unfriendly enterprise. On the other hand, it will be matter for serious consideration whether it is possible or expedient permanently to oppose a rise in the Tariff revenue earnestly desired by Turkey, and approved by most of the other Powers. Much would depend on the attitude of Russia in such a case.

As regards the meeting in Paris, which formed the subject of Sir N. O'Conor's despatch No. 268 of the 7th ultimo, I learn that it took place on the 21st instant, but has as yet led to no positive result. Its main object was to secure agreement between the

French group, which desired that the Bagdad Railway should be built "a forfait," *i.e.*, by contract; and the German group which prefers construction "en régie," *i.e.*, by the Railway Company itself. The latter method proved very economical in the case of the Anatolian Railway, and I learn that at the meeting, the German group declined to depart from it. It is hoped that a compromise may be reached by conceding to France a portion of the profits or savings which will be effected if the railway be constructed "en régie."

Count Vitalis, I understand, is now at Berlin in consultation with the German Chief Constructor on this point.

I am informed that the question of the British share in the railway was not decided at the meeting, but that the German Representatives announced that they had bound themselves by an agreement with certain British financiers on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

No. 92.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 311.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 4, 1902.*

I LEARN from His Majesty's Consul at Jerusalem that the local authorities have received instructions to accord to all German religious and charitable institutions the same privileges and immunities as have been granted to similar Russian institutions.

I have not yet received a reply to the *note verbale* presented by this Embassy, with your Lordship's approval, asking for the recognition of British schools, &c., in Turkey, but I am doing my best to hasten the consideration of our demands at the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

No. 93.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 320. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 9, 1902.*

SOME hitch has occurred in the negotiations for the unification of the Turkish Debt. The Sultan, who was understood to be on the point of issuing his Iradé accepting the Rouvier scheme in its original form, has referred it back to the Council of Ministers. The reason given is that the Council had not issued a unanimous report in favour of the scheme, but it is more probable that this step has been taken to gain time. It has been already pointed out how closely the unification question is connected with those of the Bagdad Railway and the revision of the Treaties. I learn that the Conference at Berlin between Count Vitalis and the Deutsche Bank are not proceeding quite smoothly, and that the latter is loth to relinquish any considerable portion of the control over the new railway to the French. The German Ambassador leaves Constantinople to-day, and it is possible that he will be consulted at Berlin about the railway question, and that the unification scheme will in the meantime remain in abeyance.

It is thought at the Imperial Ottoman Bank that the conversion will not now take place for a considerable time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

No. 94.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 325.)
Therapia, July 14, 1902.

My Lord,

IN Sir Nicholas O'Conor's despatch No. 209, Confidential, of the 5th May last, respecting the affray which occurred last November in the courtyard of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem, his Excellency mentioned certain questions which had arisen as to the respective rights of the German, Italian, and French Consular Representatives to be present officially at the proceedings taken against a number of Orthodox monks for assaulting certain Latin monks of Italian and German nationality on the occasion in question.

I now learn, by telegraph, from His Majesty's Consul at Jerusalem, that the trial of the individuals concerned took place on the 9th instant in the presence of the German and Italian Consuls, and resulted in the conviction of thirty-four persons, who were sentenced to terms of imprisonment varying from one week to nine months. Mr. Dickson does not mention the French Consul, who I therefore conclude was not present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

No. 95.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 328. Confidential)
Therapia, July 15, 1902.

My Lord,

THE Rouvier scheme has now been approved by a unanimous Report of the Council of Ministers, to which, as reported in my despatch No. 320, Confidential, of the 9th instant, it was returned by the Sultan for further consideration. It remains for His Imperial Majesty to issue the necessary Iradé authorizing M. Rouvier or his representatives to proceed with the negotiation.

Meanwhile the financial pressure is great. The stipulated monthly payments of £T. 31,000 on account of the Tubini and Lorando claims, which were settled last autumn under the stress of the French naval demonstration at Mitylene, and of £T. 40,000 on account of a German advance of £T. 400,000, reported in Sir Nicholas O'Conor's despatch No. 53 of the 10th February last, were not forthcoming for the month of June, and money is urgently required for this and other purposes. As the unification scheme must occupy, at best, a long period before it can be actually put in force, an immediate loan is almost imperative. The conversion of the Customs Loan, which is not included in the general plan of conversion, would afford security for a new loan of several millions; but hitherto the Sultan has set his face against this expedient, and it is not yet known what means will be devised to meet the present deficiency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

No. 96.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 332.)
Therapia, July 15, 1902.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Sir N. O'Conor's despatch No. 237, Confidential, of the 20th May, on the subject of the approaching nomination of a new Governor of the Lebanon, I have the honour to report that I have been in communication with the French Embassy, with a view to arriving, if possible, at an agreement on the various questions requiring attention in connection with the new appointment.

In his above-mentioned despatch the Ambassador stated that His Majesty's Consul-General at Beirout had furnished suggestions for the removal of the existing grievances.

Similar suggestions had also reached the French Embassy from the French Consul-General at Beirout, with whom, it is satisfactory to note, that Mr. Drummond-Hay is in entire agreement on all important points.

It appeared to M. Bapst, the French Chargé d'Affaires, as well as to myself, that the suggestions and proposals put forward by the two Consuls were too numerous and in some cases too vague to afford a hope that the new Governor, if his attention were called to the desired reforms, would be likely to give practical effect to them. We agreed, therefore, to request the Consuls-General to put their observations in the form of definite alterations of or additions to the text of the Lebanon Regulations of 1864, so that, if our Governments approved, we might endeavour, when the names of the new candidates for the office are submitted to the Embassies by the Sublime Porte, to obtain acceptance of the new text as was done in 1864, when the new Regulation of that date was promulgated.

I have now the honour to submit to your Lordship the proposals of Mr. Drummond-Hay in their present form, in which they have also reached M. Bapst, and been forwarded and recommended by him to the French Government.

Mr. Drummond-Hay proposes additions to the texts of Articles 10 and 15 of the Regulations of 1864. The former addition requires that in the election of the Sheikh, who must be of the prevailing religion in his village, the proceedings shall be supervised by a Committee representing the different religions professed by the population. Elections to the Administrative Assembly shall take place by ballot and without Government interference, in the presence of the Kaïmakam and Judges, and of a Committee named by the Sheikhs from adherents of the different religions. The votes to be counted by the Administrative Assembly in presence of the Governor.

The addition to Article 15 provides for an increase of £ T. 15,000 in the revenues of Lebanon.

These reforms are considered by Mr. Drummond-Hay as the most important of those to which he drew attention in a previous despatch, now also inclosed, in copy, for your Lordship's information.

In recommending them to his Government, M. Bapst has suggested that they be supplemented by an addition to Article 2, requiring the Administrative Council to meet, under the presidency of the Governor, a fixed number of times every year. It appears that they now meet at the caprice of the Governor, who sometimes allows a year or more to pass without convoking them. He also recommends an addition to Article 11 embodying the rule accepted in the Protocols of 1892 and 1897, but hitherto disregarded that Judges may only be dismissed after an inquiry by the Administrative Council.

Mr. Drummond-Hay has repeatedly called attention to the abuses which have sprung up in connection with these points, and I have no hesitation in requesting that, if the proposed additions to Articles 2 and 11 commend themselves to your Lordship, I may be authorized to endeavour to obtain their acceptance by the Sublime Porte, together with that of the additions to Articles 10 and 15 proposed by the British and French Consuls-General.

The details of the additions to the text of Articles 2 and 11 could be settled in consultation with Mr. Drummond-Hay.

I have reason to think that the proposed amendments in the Regulations would meet with the approval of some of the remaining Embassies. They will doubtless be resisted by the Sublime Porte, but, in view of the concurrence of local opinion in Syria as to the necessity of some such reforms as those put forward, I venture to think that an effort should be made to remove the abuses of which complaint is most loudly made. I understand from Mr. Drummond-Hay that his colleagues are generally in agreement with his proposals.

I reminded the Foreign Minister to-day that the date for consulting the Representatives of the Great Powers on the appointment of a new Governor, as laid down in the Protocol of the 9th June, 1861—namely, three months before the expiration of the existing Governor's term of office—has long since passed, and I added, as authorized by your Lordship's despatch No. 186 of the 29th May, that His Majesty's Embassy would be compelled to oppose any proposal for replacing Naoum Pasha by a member of the family of Franco Pasha, which has held sway for so many years in the Lebanon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 96.

Consul-General Drummond-Hay to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 65.)

Beirout, May 21, 1902.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 41, Confidential, of the 11th April, I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency herewith a draft of suggested modifications in the Organic Law of the Lebanon, drawn up after careful deliberation in concert with my French colleague, Comte de Sercey.

Your Excellency will observe that the majority of the points raised have been already submitted with my remarks in previous reports, the modifications differing from them only in matters of detail.

A few comments on the fresh suggestions are, however, necessary for your Excellency's information.

Dismissal of Administrative Functionaries.

It is true that Turkish officials are amenable to the laws of the Empire for corruption, but we are of opinion that instructions to the Governor-General as suggested would act rather as a preventive than a cure. After an administrative investigation, the accused would still be liable to punishment by law if necessary.

Appointment of Judges.

As the Tribunals of the Lebanon have been assimilated in great measure to those established under the judicial reforms of 1877, there appears to be no objection to the proposed modification. If adopted, it would undoubtedly place the Judges in a more favourable position, protecting them to a certain extent from the arbitrary dismissals complained of during the past twenty years.

Competence of the Tribunals of the Mountain in Commercial Matters.

During forty years' rule under the Organic Statute, industry and commerce have been considerably extended in the Lebanon, and some of the centres of business, such as Deir-el-Kamar and Zahleh, &c., are situated at long distances from Beirout. The rule Article 9 of the Organic Law that all commercial questions must be referred to the Tribunal at Beirout causes, therefore, great inconvenience to traders, who suffer from loss of time and money by being compelled to settle their commercial differences at Beirout. The suggestions as to mixed cases would also simplify matters, and be in accordance with the laws of the Empire.

Financial Reforms.

In my General Report on the Lebanon of 1900, pp. 11 to 13, I explained the financial position of the province, and the urgent necessity for an increase in the revenue of about 3,000 purses, or 1,500,000 piastres, to place the Administration on a satisfactory footing. I also stated that the only efficacious measures that could be adopted without prejudice to the inhabitants would be a fresh cadastre of all lands in the mountain, and a new census of the male population, but I at the same time pointed out that any scheme which involved a fresh survey of properties would meet with vigorous opposition from the Maronite population of North Lebanon, where the estates belonging especially to the clergy and influential Sheikhs were assessed at a quarter of their true value in 1862.

Comte de Sercey is fully aware of this state of things, and is equally anxious with myself to avoid the introduction of any measures for raising the revenue without a careful and impartial investigation as suggested in our Memorandum.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. DRUMMOND-HAY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 96.

Draft of Modifications in the Lebanon Organic Law.

Élections des Cheikhs.

L'ÉLECTION des Cheikhs sera libre. Les candidats seront choisis dans le rite actuellement prédominant dans le village. Les élections auront lieu sous la présidence d'un bureau composé des représentants de chaque rite habitant le village. Dans les villages dont les habitants seront de même rite, le bureau sera composé de cinq habitants de ce rite.

Élections au Conseil Administratif.

Les Mudirs n'interviendront plus dans la préparation des votes. Les Cheikhs viendront seuls et voteront sans qu'aucune pression soit exercée sur eux. Le Caïmacam du Caza présidera aux votes, assisté, en plus du Tribunal, d'un bureau nommé par les Cheikhs et composé d'un Cheikh de chaque rite représenté dans le Caza. Les Cheikhs déposeront eux-mêmes dans l'urne leurs propres bulletins enfermés dans une enveloppe ne portant aucun signe de reconnaissance intérieure ou extérieure.

Pour éviter toute fraude, chaque votant, après s'être acquitté de son mandat, prouvera qu'il a voté en apposant l'empreinte de son cachet sur une liste preparée *ad hoc*.

Présence du Mutessarif au Medjliss.

Le Mutessarif devra présider le Medjliss en personne au moins quatre fois par mois.

Révocation des Fonctionnaires Administratifs.

Si un fonctionnaire de l'Administration est accusé de concussion avec preuves plausibles à l'appui, une enquête sera faite par trois Membres du Medjliss, qui en soumettront le résultat au Mutessarif; celui-ci décidera du renvoi du coupable.

Nomination des Juges.

Les Juges, nommés par le Gouverneur-Générale, seront choisis par celui-ci sur une liste de candidats, présentée tous les deux ans par les chefs de communautés du district intéressé. Les Juges seront toujours susceptibles d'être renouvelés. On appliquera, en somme, à leur nomination, les errements suivis dans les vilayets de l'Empire depuis la réforme de 1877.

Révocation des Juges.

Le Protocole de 1892 sera rigoureusement observé. Les Juges seront passibles de révocation moyennant les mêmes formalités que les autres fonctionnaires.

Réformes Judiciaires.

1. Supprimer l'intermédiaire des autorités administratives entre plaideurs et Juges.
2. Compétence des Tribunaux de la Montagne en matière commerciale. Les affaires commerciales entre Libanais seront justiciable des Tribunaux Libanais de première instance, avec l'appel à la Cour Civile. Dans les procès mixtes, on appliquera les lois actuelles de l'Empire régissant la matière, c'est-à-dire, que le demandeur poursuivra le défendeur devant le Tribunal de la résidence de celui-ci.
3. Inspection annuelle des Tribunaux (par des Membres du Medjliss Administratif).

Réformes Financières.

Suppression de l'Acte Additionnel du 16 Juin, 1861, permettant de dépasser la somme de 7,000 bourses avec l'approbation du Conseil Administratif, sanctionné par la Porte.

Incorporation dans l'impôt total de la Montagne des taxes introduites à l'aide de cette disposition et augmentation des recettes de 3,000 bourses environ pour améliorer le sort des fonctionnaires, des Juges et des Miliciens, et les mettre ainsi à l'abri des tentatives de corruption. Cette augmentation pourrait être trouvée, soit en surélevant les impôts personnels et fonciers, soit en revisant en tout et partie le cadastre, soit par tout autre moyen. Le nouveau Gouverneur pourrait être chargé d'examiner avec les Consuls des Grandes Puissances le meilleur mode de réaliser cette augmentation conformément à l'esprit des Statuts Organiques. Une fois le projet unanimement adopté, il serait soumis à l'approbation des Ambassadeurs.

Un budget régulier sera présenté chaque année au Conseil Administratif, et publié.

Observation de l'Article V.

Conformément à l'esprit des Statuts Organiques, tout ce qui a trait à l'abolition des privilèges féodaux sera strictement observé.

Pour éviter ce qui s'est passé en 1892 et pour que ces réformes reçoivent une exécution pratique, il faudrait :—

1. Ou bien les incorporer dans le Règlement, sous forme d'amendement ou d'Acte additionnel ;

2. Ou bien mettre leur notification officielle au nouveau Gouverneur comme condition préalable et *sine qua non* à sa reconnaissance par les Puissances.

(Signed) R. DRUMMOND-HAY.

Beirout, May 1902.

Inclosure 3 in No. 96.

Consul-General Drummond-Hay to Mr. de Bunsen.

Beirout, July 2, 1902.

(No. 82.)

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 65, of the 21st May, and to your reply of the 14th June, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith an abridged draft of proposed amendments in the Lebanon Regulations of 1864, in the form of additional paragraphs to Articles 10 and 15.

The original texts and my observations are noted in separate columns.

Comte de Sercey has forwarded by this mail an identic report to the French Embassy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. DRUMMOND-HAY.

Inclosure 4 in No. 96.

ABRIDGED Draft of Proposed Modifications in the Lebanon Organic Statute.

Règlement de 1864.	Texte Additionnel Proposé.	Observations.
ARTICLE 10 Les Juges sont nommés par le Gouverneur; les Membres du Medjliss Administratif sont élus dans les arrondissements par les Cheikhs de village; les Cheikhs de village sont choisis par la population de chaque village. Le personnel du Medjliss Administratif sera renouvelé par tiers tous les deux ans et les membres sortants pourront être reclus.	L'ÉLECTION des Cheikhs aura lieu sous la présidence d'un bureau composé des représentants de chaque rite habitant le village. Le Cheikh devra appartenir au rite prédominant actuellement. Dans les villages dont les habitants sont de même rite, le bureau sera composé de cinq personnes. Les Membres du Medjliss Administratif seront élus par les Cheikhs des villages sans intervention ou ingérence de l'autorité administrative. Le vote se fera au chef-lieu du Caza. Il sera présidé par le Caïmacam, assisté du Tribunal du Caza, et d'un bureau nommé par les Cheikhs, à raison d'un Cheikh de chaque rite existant dans le Caza. Les Cheikhs déposeront eux-mêmes dans une urne scellée du sceau du Medjliss leur bulletin renfermé dans une enveloppe, ne portant aucun signe de reconnaissance extérieure ou intérieure. Pour éviter toute fraude, chaque votant, après avoir émis son suffrage, prouvera qu'il a pris part au vote en apposant son cachet sur une liste préparée *ad hoc*. Le dépouillement des votes sera opéré par les soins du Medjliss Administratif en présence du Gouverneur-Général, qui proclamera le résultat du scrutin.	D'APRÈS l'Article 2, § 2, le Conseil Administratif a pour mission de "répartir l'impôt, contrôler la gestion des revenus et des dépenses, et donner son avis consultatif sur toutes les questions qui lui seront posées par le Gouverneur." En fait, son rôle se borne, *comme organe financier*, à répartir l'impôt et à voter purement et simplement, sans discussion ni contrôle, le budget préparé par le Gouverneur; *comme organe consultatif*, à couvrir d'un vote dicté d'avance les mesures dont le Gouverneur-Général ne veut pas assumer la responsabilité. Il ne répond donc nullement à l'objet en vue duquel il a été institué, et n'est qu'un instrument entre les mains du pouvoir exécutif. Cet état de dépendance vis-à-vis du Gouverneur-Général est la conséquence du mode de recrutement actuellement en usage pour le Conseil. Le Règlement de 1864 ne confient à ce sujet que des dispositions fort vagues, laissant la porte ouverte à l'ingérence administrative. La réglementation détaillée proposée ci-contre pourrait y remédier dans une certaine mesure. Elle améliorerait le recrutement du Corps

Règlement de 1864.	Texte Additionnel Proposé.	Observations.
		Électoral et du Corps Élu, et assurerait la liberté des élections, conformément au vœu exprimé par les Puissances dans les Protocoles des 15 Août, 1892, et 1897.
Article 15. La Sublime Porte se réservant le droit de lever, par l'intermédiaire du Gouverneur du Liban, les 3,500 bourses qui constituent aujourd'hui l'impôt de la Montagne, impôt qui pourra être augmenté jusqu'à la somme de 7,000 bourses lorsque les circonstances le permettront, il est bien entendu que le produit de ces impôts sera affecté, avant tout, aux frais d'administration de la Montagne et à ses dépenses d'utilité publique; le surplus seulement, s'il y a lieu, entrera dans les caisses de l'État. Si les frais généraux, strictement nécessaires à la marche régulière de l'Administration, dépassent le produit des impôts, c'est au Trésor Impérial à pourvoir à ces excédents des dépenses. Les bekaliks, ou revenus des domaines Impériaux, étant indépendants de l'impôt, ils seront versés dans la caisse du Liban, au crédit de la comptabilité de cette caisse avec le Trésor Impérial. Mais il est entendu que, pour les travaux publics ou autres dépenses extraordinaires, la Sublime Porte n'en serait responsable qu'autant qu'elle les aurait préalablement approuvées.	Est supprimé l'Acte Additionnel au Protocole du 9 Juin, 1861, qui permet de dépasser la somme de 7,000 bourses avec l'autorisation de la Sublime Porte et l'assentiment de la majorité du Medjliss Administratif. L'impôt de 7,000 bourses prévu par le Règlement de 1864 sera augmenté de toutes les taxes actuellement en vigueur et d'un supplément de revenus de 3,000 bourses, destiné à augmenter les traitements des fonctionnaires de l'Administration, notamment des Juges, des Mudirs, et des Miliciens. Les nouvelles taxes, qui serviront à parfaire ce supplément de revenu, seront mises en vigueur après avoir été approuvées par la Porte et les Ambassadeurs des Grandes Puissances. Le Gouverneur et le Medjliss Administratif doivent établir et publier chaque année un budget régulier.	D'après l'Article 14, § 2, du Règlement de 1864, la Porte doit, au delà de la somme de 7,000 bourses fixée comme impôt maximum pour la Montagne, subvenir aux excédents de dépenses d'Administration. Jusqu'en Juin 1871, elle a fourni 5,000 bourses; de 1871 à 1879, 3,840. Depuis cette époque la Porte a cessé de tenir ses engagements, et il n'y a pas à compter qu'elle reprenne aujourd'hui le service de la subvention. Or, le budget du Liban, resserré dans de si étroites limites, par suite de la suppression du subside du Trésor Ottoman, est insuffisant, bien que, par suite de la création de certaines taxes supplémentaires établies en vertu des dispositions de l'Acte Additionnel au Protocole du 9 Juin, 1861, il ait été porté à plus de 10,000 bourses. Il était de 12,000 en 1878. Les différents services de l'Administration ont été maintenus, mais leurs titulaires ont subi de notables diminutions de traitement. Les Juges notamment reçoivent des appointements insuffisants et ne permettant pas d'exiger d'eux les garanties d'intégrité qu'on serait en droit de leur demander. Il est indispensable de remédier à cet état de choses par une augmentation des revenus

		de la Montagne. L'excédent des recettes devrait être affecté exclusivement à l'amélioration des traitements des Juges, des Mudirs, et de la Milice. Le Gouvernement du Liban ayant désormais à sa disposition des ressources suffisantes pour assurer son bon fonctionnement, il est indispensable d'abroger l'Acte Additionnel, qui est contraire au principe de la fixité de l'impôt et peut, à juste titre, être considéré comme une porte ouverte aux abus. Il serait possible d'obtenir l'accroissement de revenus proposé soit par une revision du cadastre, soit par une surélévation des impôts personnels et fonciers. Ces mesures étant dans le cas de soulever certains mécontentements, on pourrait, si elles offraient trop d'inconvénients, frapper d'une taxe les actes de vente, d'hypothèque, de location, de partage, &c., qui en sont actuellement exempts. D'ailleurs cette question devrait faire l'objet d'une étude du Gouverneur-Général et du Medjliss Administratif. Les impôts proposés ne devraient être appliqués qu'après avoir été approuvés par les Grandes Puissances. Celles-ci, renseignées par leurs Consuls sur les taxes dont il s'agit et sur leur rendement réel, pourront se prononcer en connaissance de cause sur la convenance de leur mise en vigueur. Enfin il est indispensable qu'un budget régulier soit établi et publié chaque année. C'est le seul moyen de réprimer les abus, s'il y en a de trop criants, et de ramener en même temps que l'ordre dans les finances, la confiance chez les populations.

Règlement de 1864.	Texte Additionnel Proposé.	Observations.
Protocoles des 15 Août, 1892, et 14 Août, 1897.	.. ..	Les désidérata exprimés par les Puissances dans le Protocole du 15 Août, 1892, n'ayant jamais été pris en sérieuse considération, bien qu'ils eussent été rappelés à la Sublime Porte par le Protocole du 2 (14) Août, 1897, il y a lieu d'insister pour que le nouveau Gouverneur-Général soit expressément invité à s'y conformer à l'avenir.

Beirut, Juillet 1902.

(Signed) R. DRUMMOND-HAY.

No. 97.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 28.)

(No. 346.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, July* 23, 1902.

THE Sultan has not yet issued his final Iradé approving the Rouvier scheme for the unification of the Turkish Debt. The delay is ascribed to various causes. Russian opposition is kept up at high pressure, and has been emphasized by the presentation a few days ago of a note demanding payment of £T. 930,000, as accumulated interest on a sum of about £T. 250,000, the last instalment of which was paid in June 1901 to the Russian Embassy, on account of losses suffered by Russian subjects in Turkey during the war of 1878. It is urged in this note, as I am informed, that the above indemnity should have been paid within a few years of the termination of the war, and compound interest is always allowed in such cases at the recognized rate, which here is 9 per cent. per annum. It is believed at the Porte that the object of this fresh claim is merely to discourage any serious reform of the Turkish finances by placing beforehand an embargo upon the resources which such a reform would provide. The Porte has replied, repudiating liability to pay interest, but Russia will, doubtless, obtain payment in the end, if she perseveres, of at least a large portion of the sum demanded. Opposition to the Rouvier scheme proceeds also from Selim Pasha, Minister of Mines and Forests, who is influential with the Sultan, and unremitting in his endeavours to put through his own scheme of conversion. It may be felt, also, that it will be well to await a settlement of the differences which have arisen between the French and German groups interested in the Bagdad Railway project.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Finance has presented a report to the Sultan showing a deficit of nearly £T. 3,000,000 in the Budget. The necessity of a considerable loan has thus been clearly demonstrated, and the Ottoman Bank is now engaged in considering with the Ministry of Finance the terms on which it would be able to convert the so-called Customs Loan. This loan was raised in 1886 for £T. 6,500,000, on the security of the customs, which have regularly paid the annual charge of £T. 390,000 for interest and sinking fund. The amount still outstanding is £T. 5,140,000. The conversion of the "Fisheries Loan" of 30,000,000 marks, brought out in 1888 by the "Deutsche Bank," is also under consideration.

I have, &c.

(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

No. 98.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 4.)

(No. 348.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, July* 25, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 325 of the 14th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Jerusalem reporting the result of the trial of the Greek monks accused of assault on Latin monks of German and Italian nationality on the occasion of the affray before the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in November 1901.

I have, &c.

(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Inclosure in No. 98.

Consul Dickson to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 36.)

Sir, *Jerusalem, July* 12, 1902.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 10th instant, I have the honour to report that, since the affray which had occurred between Latins and Greeks before the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in November 1901, my Italian colleague, supported by the German Consul, had always maintained his right to intervene in demanding justice for the Italian monks who had been wounded in the riot, irrespective of the privileges claimed

by France in this respect *ab antiquo*, in accordance with paragraph 7 of Article LXII of the Treaty of Berlin. The Italian Consul based his right of interference on paragraph 6 of the same Article of the Treaty, notwithstanding that hitherto the Franciscan monks have been considered by the Turkish authorities as under the protection of France, and ignored the *procès-verbal* referred to in my despatch No. 4 of the 15th January last, as having been signed by Latins and Greeks for an arrangement of the dispute. My German colleague took the same view of the matter as the Italian Consul, and they both received instructions from their respective Embassies to press for redress before the Judicial authorities for the injuries inflicted on the German and Italian monks.

Nevertheless a departure from the usual mode of procedure in questions of this sort, which heretofore had been settled by the French Consular authorities, could not very well be agreed to by the local authorities without instructions from Constantinople. An Imperial Iradé was accordingly issued at the instigation, I understand, of the Italian Embassy, recognizing the right of the Italian Consular authorities to protect the Italian inmates of the different monasteries and convents in the east in matters affecting their personal rights, and soon afterwards the Turkish authorities in Jerusalem were instructed in this sense, and recently further orders were received by them directing that the trial of the persons charged with causing the injuries to the Italian and German monks, in the affray of the 4th November, 1901, should come off without delay and be finished in one sitting.

The trial accordingly took place on the 9th instant, nearly fifty persons, including many Greek monks, forming the list of the accused. The German and Italian Consuls were present, together with their respective Dragomans, and the sitting lasted from 2 P.M. until 10 P.M. with the result that thirty-one persons, including twelve Greek priests, were condemned to various terms of imprisonment ranging from one week to nine months. Father Eftimios, the custodian of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, was among the accused, having been charged with instigating the riot, but was acquitted. None of the accused, however, appeared in Court in answer to the summons, and those who were found guilty were therefore condemned by default, which gives them the right of making opposition to the sentence and of appeal. Although there were Russian, French, and Spanish monks wounded in the affray, as well as a Dutch and an American monk, no charges were preferred by them nor redress demanded by their respective Consuls. As regards the Maltese monk, named Paolo Micallef, I have the honour to state that he had left for Malta some time ago and made no formal complaint.

The trial itself, looked at from a purely judicial point of view, would not, I would respectfully beg to add, have excited any very great attention, but it assumes considerable importance and has created not a little interest, from the interpretation put upon paragraphs 6 and 7 of Article LXII of the Treaty of Berlin by Italy, Germany, and Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN DICKSON.

No. 99.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August 4.*)

(No. 352.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, July 29, 1902.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 78 of to-day, I have the honour to transmit the text of the instruction received by the French Chargé d'Affaires, concerning the proposals for the amendment of the Lebanon Regulations of 1864, which have been put forward jointly by the British and French Consuls-General at Beirut.

I have ventured to request your Lordship's authority to proceed in this matter in concert with the French Embassy.

The text of the proposed additions to Articles 10 and 15 was inclosed in my despatch No. 332 of the 15th instant; that which is proposed for Articles 2 and 11 is as follows:—

Article 2. At the end of the existing Article add: "Le Gouverneur devra présider en personne le Medjliss au moins quatre fois par mois."

Article 11. "Tous les Juges seront rétribués. Si un Juge est accusé d'avoir prévariqué ou de s'être rendu, par un fait quelconque indique de ses fonctions, une enquête sera faite par les soins du Medjliss Administratif, qui en soumettra le résultat

au Gouverneur; et c'est seulement alors que celui-ci pourra prononcer la révocation ou le déplacement du Juge inculpé; ce dernier sera, en outre, passible d'une peine proportionnée à la faute qu'il aura commise."

As regards Article 2, I find I was misinformed in stating that the Administrative Council met only at the caprice of the Governor. In point of fact, it is permanently in session, its members separating only twice a year for a fortnight, when the Governor changes his residence. The important point is that the Governor should occasionally preside in person. Article 1 declares that this is one of his functions, but the rule is disregarded, and the Medjliss has become a mere machine for registering the orders sent by the Governor, who takes no part in the proceedings.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Inclosure in No. 99.

M. Delcassé to M. Bapst.

EN même temps que votre dépêche du 12 de ce mois, j'ai reçu un rapport de M. de Sercey sur les modifications que notre Agent à Beyrout propose, d'accord avec son collègue Anglais, d'apporter au Règlement du Liban.

Je ne puis qu'envisager avec satisfaction toutes les améliorations dont on pourrait faire bénéficier les populations du Liban. Je dois d'ailleurs m'en rapporter à vous du soin de discerner celles qui sont le plus opportunes et qui ont le plus de chances d'aboutir. Il vous appartient, en effet, de préparer avec les cinq autres Ambassades intéressées le réglement de cette affaire de la modification du Règlement de 1864. Vous apprécierez, comme moi, la nécessité de ne mettre en avant aucun projet de réformes avant d'être assuré qu'il sera assez généralement et assez fermement appuyé par les Puissances intéressées, pour qu'il devienne difficile à la Turquie de ne pas céder sous la pression de celles-ci.

Paris, le 24 Juillet, 1902.

No. 100.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 87.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, August 4, 1902.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 332 and your telegram No. 78 of the 29th July, referring to the organic statute of Lebanon.

I authorize you to act on the lines of the instructions sent to the French Chargé d'Affaires by M. Delcassé. Clearly it will be desirable that you should come to a very distinct previous agreement with your colleagues before formally approaching the Porte with reference to the subject. In your despatch you mention four reforms which would all seem to be desirable, but Sir N. O'Conor thinks that the most important points are the appointment of a fairly honest and capable Governor-General, and the addition to Article 11 which the French Chargé d'Affaires proposes.

No. 101.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August 7.*)

(No. 80.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, August 7, 1902.*

LEBANON.

With reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 87 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to report that a meeting of the Representatives concerned was held to-day to consider Lebanon questions. The four amendments to the Organic Statute were approved by all except the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, who is awaiting instructions. A

meeting will take place on Monday at the Porte for the nomination of a new Governor, when the reforms will be proposed by M. Constans and myself, the Minister for Foreign Affairs having stated informally that he did not anticipate any difficulty in accepting them.

Yusuf Bey, the son of a former, and the brother-in-law of the present Governor, is most likely to be the Porte's candidate for the post of Governor. He has the support of the French and Russian Representatives notwithstanding the objections of the French Consul-General at Beirut to the appointment of any member of the Franco family. The British Consul-General at Beirut has more than once reported strongly in the same sense, and Sir N. O'Conor recommended the exclusion of this family in his despatch No. 237 of the 20th May last. From a private telegram just received from Mr. Drummond Hay I see that he still adheres to all he has said on the subject. The meeting to-day, however, was strongly in Yusuf Bey's favour, I being his only opponent.

Unless otherwise instructed by your Lordship I propose to continue my opposition.

Fears were expressed at the meeting that no equally suitable candidate for the post would be forthcoming, but there are some who, if only the Porte would propose them, would do perfectly well.

No. 102.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 90.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, August* 8, 1902.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 80 of to-day's date in regard to the Governorship of the Lebanon.

Yusuf Bey's appointment would be an undesirable extension of office in the Franco family, but it would not be desirable for you to protest against his nomination unless you can obtain your colleagues' support in inducing the Porte to submit another candidate.

No. 103.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 356.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 2, 1902.

IN view of the question asked in the House of Commons on the 19th June regarding the situation in the district of Sasun, the following information, which has just reached me, by telegraph, from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Bitlis, may be of interest to your Lordship.

Mr. Freeman's telegram is in reply to an inquiry which I addressed to him at the request of the United States' Minister, who had heard from the Armenian Bishop in the United States that the Armenians in America feared that a massacre of their countrymen was imminent at Mush, Bitlis, and Sasun.

Mr. Freeman believes that the reports of impending massacres are without foundation; he describes the situation as normally bad, but has not heard or observed anything to indicate the danger or fear of a massacre. He had mentioned to the Vali of Bitlis the apprehensions of disorders which were entertained abroad, and his Excellency had assured him, in reply, that there was no ground for these apprehensions, adding that in answer to inquiries from his Government he had reported that the situation in the vilayet was tranquil.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

No. 104.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 82. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, August* 12, 1902.

REFERRING to your Lordship's telegram No. 90, respecting the selection of a new Governor for the Lebanon, I have the honour to report that the four candidates including Yusuf Bey and his brother were eliminated yesterday at a meeting of the Representatives concerned. We have asked the Porte to submit more names. May I accept the most desirable candidate, obtaining the support of my colleagues?

No. 105.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 91.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, August* 12, 1902.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 82 of to-day's date in regard to the Governorship of the Lebanon.

Your proposed action is approved.

No. 106.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 14.)

(No. 84.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, August* 14, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report, in continuation of my telegram of the day before yesterday, that the Porte has submitted only one new candidate for the Governorship of the Lebanon, and he was rejected at a meeting of Representatives held at the Austrian Embassy to-day. As Naoum Pasha's term expires to-morrow I withdrew my opposition to Youssouf, but he was again rejected. The Porte declines to propose any more candidates. The Russian Chargé d'Affaires is now the obstacle to a settlement. The French Ambassador is telegraphing for instructions.

The extension of the present Governor's term for a month by agreement between the Porte and the Powers would seem now the best course.

We have held the Porte responsible for the irregular situation caused by the unauthorized prolongation of Naoum Pasha's term, as had the Ottoman Government sought an agreement with the Representatives three months ago, as required by the Protocol of 9th June, 1861, the necessity for his provisional continuance in office might not have arisen.

No. 107.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 15.)

(No. 361. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 8, 1902.

I HAVE had the honour to send your Lordship, in my telegram No. 80 of yesterday, a brief account of the meeting of Representatives which was held at the Austrian Embassy yesterday. The meeting was summoned at the request of the French Ambassador, in which I concurred, in order that the other Representatives concerned in the Lebanon might be invited to express their views on the scheme of reform jointly drawn up by the British and French Consuls-General at Beirut and generally approved by His Majesty's Government and that of France.

The French Ambassador gave a clear account of the proposed reforms and of the abuses they are designed to remedy, and expressed the hope that they would meet with the approval of all the Representatives present.

The Austro-Hungarian Ambassador and the German and Italian Chargés d'Affaires

having declared their entire concurrence with all the four points, the Russian Chargé d'Affaires made a few observations, which led to a long and animated discussion between himself and M. Constans.

M. Stcherbatcheff said that he had no authority to deal with the question, and that he must await a further report from Beirut and definite instructions from St. Petersburgh. Meanwhile his personal opinion was that the proposals, taken as a whole, would involve danger to minorities, such as the small Orthodox communities in the Lebanon. These were surely safer under the benevolent rule of an autocratic Governor than under that of an Assembly likely to be influenced always by a large Maronite majority. The reforms seemed to him to restrict the Governor's influence in elections and in the question of the dismissal of Judges, and he doubted whether the change would be beneficial.

M. Constans disputed this view with considerable warmth. The original Organic Statute of 1861 had, it was true, placed large powers in the hands of the Governor, but the object of the reforms embodied in the Regulations of 1864 was to admit the people to a greater share in the Government. Since the later date the population had made a great advance in knowledge and civilization, and it was unreasonable to deny them the small additional protection from the meddlesome interference of the Governor which was now contemplated. Elections at present were a mere farce. Judges and other officials were driven to extortion by their miserable pittances. The Governor regarded the Council as an office for the registration of his Decrees, and a Judge who dared to oppose his will was promptly relieved of his office. It was a retrograde act to oppose the remedies for these abuses which were so strongly advocated by local opinion, and his Excellency regretted to note that on the question of principle he was so deeply severed from the Russian Representative.

The latter adhered to his view, and I fear that it represents the true policy of the Russian Embassy on the question, and that the proposed modifications of the Règlement will lack the support of Russia, if indeed they be not actively opposed by her.

In these circumstances I hesitated for a moment whether, in view of the instructions in your Lordship's telegram No. 87 of the 4th instant, it would not be my duty to abstain from putting the proposal forward. There was, however, a very distinct agreement with all the Representatives except the Russian in its favour, and the Ottoman Foreign Minister, who had been sounded on the question, had declared in a general manner that he anticipated no difficulty in obtaining its acceptance by Turkey. M. Constans, moreover, whose instructions resembled my own, was determined to proceed in the matter, though left in the lurch by his natural ally. I did not think that your Lordship would wish me to withdraw my support, and I agreed, therefore, with M. Constans, that we should both communicate the proposed modifications of the Règlement to Tewfik Pasha to-day for his information, adding that they would be formally proposed on Monday, the 11th, which has been fixed for the selection of a new Governor.

I accordingly gave to Tewfik Pasha this afternoon, through Mr. Fitzmaurice, the Memorandum of which a copy is inclosed.

It was further decided that we could not compel the Sublime Porte to accept the reforms by declining to proceed with the nomination of a Governor until they had done so. Such an attitude would only lead to the indefinite continuance of the present Governor's term of office, which, on all hands, is considered undesirable. The fate of the reforms must depend, therefore, largely on their merits, and on the degree of insistance with which they are advocated by the Embassies which accept them. If I may venture to express my own opinion, it is that it would be a pity to let slip the opportunity of submitting formally a set of proposals which have commended themselves, after a careful study of the question on the spot, to the French and British Consular Representatives at Beirut, and which, even if they do not now bear fruit, can be taken up anew on some future occasion when circumstances may be more favourable.

I trust I am right in thinking that your Lordship's instructions will bear me out when, in concert with the French Ambassador, I recommend the reforms to the acceptance of the Ottoman Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Inclosure in No. 107.

Memorandum of Reforms.

Amendements projetés au Règlement du Liban du 6 Septembre, 1864.

ARTICLE 2. Insérer une disposition stipulant que le Megliss doit se réunir à telles dates chaque année (et pour telle durée); par exemple, "Il devra présider en personne le Megliss au moins quatre fois par mois."

Article 10. A la suite de la disposition "les membres du Megliss Administratif sont élus dans les arrondissements par les Cheikhs de village. Les Cheikhs de village sont choisis par la population de chaque village." Ajouter, "L'élection des Cheikhs aura lieu sous la présidence d'un bureau composé des représentants de chaque rite habitant le village. Le Cheikh devra appartenir au rite prédominant actuellement. Dans les villages dont les habitants sont de même rite, le bureau sera composé de cinq personnes.

"Les membres du Megliss Administratif seront élus par les Cheikhs des villages sans intervention ou ingérence de l'autorité administrative. Le vote se fera au chef-lieu du caza. Il sera présidé par le Caïmacan assisté du Tribunal du caza et d'un bureau nommé par les Cheikhs, à raison d'un Cheikh de chaque rite existant dans le caza. Les Cheikhs déposeront eux-mêmes dans une urne, scellée du sceau du Megliss, leur bulletin renfermé dans une enveloppe ne portant aucun signe de reconnaissance extérieure ou intérieure. Pour éviter toute fraude, chaque votant, après avoir émis son suffrage, prouvera qu'il a pris part au vote en apposant son cachet sur une liste préparée *ad hoc*.

"Le dépouillement des votes sera opéré par les soins du Megliss et en présence du Gouverneur-Général, qui proclamera le résultat du scrutin."

Article 11. Remplacer le texte actuel par le suivant: "Tous les Juges seront rétribués. Si un Juge est accusé d'avoir prévariqué ou de s'être rendu, par un fait quelconque, indigne de ses fonctions, une enquête sera faite par les soins du Megliss Administratif qui en soumettra le résultat au Gouverneur; et c'est seulement alors que celui-ci pourra prononcer la révocation ou le déplacement du Juge inculpé; ce dernier sera, en outre, passible d'une peine proportionnée à la faute qu'il aura commise."

Article 15. Remplacer le texte de 1864 par le suivant: "Est supprimé l'Acte Additionnel au Protocole du 9 Juin, 1861, permettant au Gouverneur de dépasser la somme de 7,000 bourses (£T. 35,000) indiqué comme limite à l'impôt de la montagne.

"Cet impôt de 7,000 bourses prévu par le Règlement de 1864, sera augmenté de toutes les taxes qui auront été mises en vigueur depuis lors; il pourra en outre être augmenté d'un supplément de 3,000 bourses (destiné à améliorer les traitements des fonctionnaires de l'Administration Libanaise, notamment des Juges, des Mudirs, et des Miliciens.

"Les taxes à établir en vue de produire ce supplément ne pourront être mises en vigueur qu'après avoir été approuvées par la Porte et les Ambassades des Six Grandes Puissances.

"Le Gouverneur et le Megliss Administratif doivent établir et publier chaque année un budget régulier."

No. 108.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 15.)

(No. 362. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 8, 1902.

AFTER considering the proposed reforms in the Lebanon Regulations with the result reported in my preceding Confidential despatch No. 361 of this day, the meeting of Representatives proceeded to discuss some of the possible candidates for the post of Governor, which falls vacant on the 15th instant.

It was soon evident that the name raising the greatest difficulty was that of Yussuf Bey, of the Turkish Foreign Office, a Greek Catholic, son of the late Governor, Franco Pasha, and brother-in-law of the present Governor, Naoum Pasha. He bears a good reputation, and apart from his family connection, there would be little to say against him. I allude not so much to his marriage into a French family of Constantinople, which has already

provided wives for three French diplomatists, or to his intimate relations with the Russian as well as the French Embassy, as to his relationship to present and past Rulers of the Lebanon which, in the opinion of Mr. Drummond Hay and of his French colleague (who, indeed, was the first to raise the point), ought to disqualify him for the post to which he aspires. One of the main grievances which it is sought to remedy is the concentration of power in the hands of a clique of the adherents of Franco Pasha's family. It is thought that Yussuf Bey, however good his intentions, would probably fail in making the changes of personnel, which have become so necessary. This opinion is expressed in Sir Nicholas O'Conor's despatch No. 237, Confidential, of the 20th May last, to your Lordship, and, in view of the intimation which, as approved by your Lordship, I have since made in an informal manner to the Sublime Porte that the proposal of the name of Yussuf Bey or of his brother would place me in a position of great difficulty, I do not now propose, unless otherwise instructed by your Lordship, to accept his candidature, which will very probably be put forward by the Sublime Porte.

I have told the French Ambassador frankly how I am placed in the matter, and his Excellency is quite ready to admit that, when he went on leave of absence, he was in agreement with Sir Nicholas O'Conor on the subject. He has since been led to change his view, and he tells me quite openly that he now finds it impossible not to support a candidate so closely connected with French diplomacy.

Yussuf Bey is also, as M. Constans declares, and as would be very natural, the candidate of M. Zinoview, but M. Stcherbatchew, now in charge of the Russian Embassy, denies all knowledge of this, and says that his Embassy has no candidate.

The Austrian, German, and Italian Representatives state that they are not greatly interested, and will accept any Governor approved by the British, French, and Russian Representatives.

M. Constans expresses the fear that, if Yussuf Bey be rejected, no other man of fair capacity will be forthcoming. Morel Bey, however, Ottoman Conseiller at Berlin, and Michel Effendi Missirli, now of the Public Debt, who are both candidates, should either of them prove fair Governors, if their previous reputations can be relied on. It is true that no candidate of marked ability has yet been mentioned. But it is not known what names the Porte may propose.

In order to give your Lordship an idea of the reasons which militate against the appointment of Yussuf Bey, I inclose a Memorandum of extracts from despatches bearing on the subject.

In view of the past attitude of the Embassy in the matter, I have felt it my duty to oppose the candidate in question. Should, however, an absolute deadlock occur, no other name affording any prospect of agreement, I propose to request your Lordship's instructions by telegraph. It will, of course, be considered, if Yussuf Bey is finally chosen, that the French and Russian elements in the Lebanon have triumphed. It would be unfortunate if no candidate of a more neutral colour could be found.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

P.S., 9th *August*:—I have now received your Lordship's telegram No. 90 of yesterday, and will be guided by the instruction it contains.

M. DE B.

Inclosure in No. 108.

Memorandum.

Memorandum in Mr. Drummond Hay's No. 50 of April 24, 1902.

If Naoum Pasha is not removed, it is expedient, in the interests of the Lebanon, to *avoid, if possible, replacing him by one of his near relatives.* The new Governor-General should have a free hand in dealing with the irregularities and abuses that have crept into the Administration and which can only be remedied by firmness and impartiality. It is generally feared that a son of Franco Pasha would not possess these qualities, and might follow in the footsteps of his father and brother-in-law, the two weakest Governors that have ruled the Lebanon under the Organic Statute.

Mr. Drummond Hay's No. 41. April 11, 1902.

I will not trouble your Excellency with a repetition of all the points raised by Comte de Sercey, as they are already included in my reports, but I should mention that he lays great stress on the fact that Naoum Pasha is depending mainly on the pernicious support of certain persons at the Palace, together with Mehame Pasha, for his reappointment; and he draws attention to the Protocol of 1892, limiting the

Governor's term of office to five years, a rule which he thinks should also be observed in connection with the appointment of high functionaries belonging to the feudal clans.

After commenting on the evil consequences of a corrupt and arbitrary Administration, Comte de Sercey informs the Ambassador that our views on the subject are identic, and although he understands that I am personally well disposed towards Naoum Pasha, he does not believe that I would desire his reappointment unless he returned with categoric instructions to rectify abuses and introduce the requisite reforms. My colleague, however, expresses his doubts as to the prospects of such satisfactory results being attained *either by Naoum Pasha's renewal or by the appointment of his brother-in-law, Yusuf Franco, who would probably favour Naoum Pasha's adherents and be lured by them into a similar system of government.*

Mr. Drummond Hay's telegram, Private and Confidential, August 6, 1902.

I am still of opinion that *appointment of a relative of Naoum Pasha is inadvisable* for the reasons given in my despatch No. 41 of the 11th April. I have no ground for believing that my French colleague has changed his views, which were even more decided than my own. Further proposal is perhaps due to Maronite Archbishop just returned from Constantinople, having visited Izzet Bey and French Embassy.

Sir N. O'Conor's No. 237.

It is also desirable, if possible, to *avoid taking another Governor from the family of Franco Pasha*, who was in office from 1868 to 1878. Naoum Pasha is his son-in-law, and has governed in the interest of his clique; and two of Franco Pasha's sons are now in the field as candidates, one of them enjoying considerable Palace support. . . . . I propose to keep a careful watch on the list of candidates and to point out to the Porte any means which I should consider it my duty to support.

Mr. de Bunsen's No. 332 of July 15, 1901.

I added, as authorized by your Lordship's despatch No. 186 of the 29th May, that *His Majesty's Embassy would be compelled to oppose any proposal for replacing Naoum Pasha by a member of the family of Franco Pasha*, which has held sway for so many years in the Lebanon.

Mr. Drummond Hay's No. 11 of January 21, 1902.

The population would also hail with satisfaction some changes in the distribution of posts which, during the ten years' Governorship of Naoum Pasha, have been largely filled by the friends and followers either of certain Chiefs or of officials at head-quarters, who, through their influence over the Governor, have managed in a large degree to control the appointments. This is especially the case with Emir Mustafa Arslan, Kaïmakam of the Shouf, whose well-known ascendency over Naoum Pasha has been strengthened of late years through the protection he enjoys from Izzet Bey at Constantinople. This state of things has been most prejudicial to the Druses of the Shouf, of whom at least 80 per cent. are discontented with the Emir's uncontrolled and arbitrary rule.

It is most desirable, in the interest of all communities and clans, that *the Governor-General should occupy an impartial position* by refraining from showing marked favour to any particular sect or party.

No. 109.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 18.)

(No. 368. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, August* 11, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 362, Confidential, of the 8th instant, I have the honour to report that the projected meeting at the Sublime Porte for the selection of a candidate for the Governorship of the Lebanon was replaced by the holding of a second meeting of Representatives this morning at the Austro-Hungarian Embassy. This alteration of the arrangements was made in consequence of a communication which Baron de Calice received yesterday from the Minister of Foreign Affairs through Hakki Bey, the Legal Adviser to the Porte, and which was to the following effect: Tewfik Pasha being much engaged with urgent business requiring his presence at the Palace, he begged that the Representatives of the Powers would deliberate among themselves on the following points:—

1. To determine whether unanimity could be secured in favour of the retention of Naoum Pasha in office for a further period, which was desired by the Sublime Porte.

2. Failing acquiescence in this proposal, to ascertain which of the following gentlemen would be regarded by the Representatives as the most desirable candidate, namely, Fethy Bey, his brother Yusuf, Morel Bey, of the Ottoman Embassy at Berlin; and

Muzaffer Pasha, Chief Superintendent of the horse-breeding establishments of the Turkish army.

Hakki Bey was authorized to intimate that the Porte would accept the choice of the Representatives.

I need not, perhaps, trouble your Lordship with an account of the proceedings of the meeting on this question further than to report that unanimity was not attained in favour either of the retention of the present Governor or of any one of the candidates proposed.

Baron de Calice undertook to inform Tewfik Pasha of this result, and to request that other names might be submitted in the same way, in order that a final decision might be reached without delay.

His Excellency has since informed me that, according to his information, the Sublime Porte will make no difficulty in suggesting other candidates, the two most likely names being those of M. Conyoumjian, of the Ottoman Embassy at Rome, and of Michel Effendi Missirli, of the Ottoman Public Debt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

No. 110.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 369.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 11, 1902.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I handed to the Ottoman Foreign Minister, through Mr. Fitzmaurice, on the 8th instant, a copy of the desired modifications in the Lebanon Règlement of 1864, in the form transmitted to your Lordship in my despatch No. 361 of the 8th August

As already explained, I did so by previous agreement with the French Ambassador, and with the full approval of the Austrian, German, and Italian Representatives, who entirely indorse the new proposals, but are prevented from formally putting them forward, inasmuch as their instructions require them to take such questions up only when absolute unanimity is attained. In the present case the Russian Chargé d'Affaires still asks for time to consider the reforms, but M. Constans, who has them much at heart, will not consent to wait, and they have been likewise submitted by his Excellency to the Sublime Porte.

It was our intention to propose them in a more formal manner at the meeting which was fixed to take place at the Porte to-day. As explained, however, in a separate despatch, the meeting at the Porte did not take place; the Representatives meeting again at the Austrian Embassy instead. In the course of that meeting, the reform question again came under informal discussion. The Russian Chargé d'Affaires adhered to the views he had already expressed, and it was evident that the reform scheme, as it stood, was likely to be opposed by Russia, whose consent is, of course, necessary to any modification of the Organic Statutes of 1861 and 1864. After trying in vain to convince M. Sticherbatchew of the beneficial effect which would be produced by the slight modifications proposed, M. Constans advanced the proposition that the best means of attaining the end desired by France and England, and regarded also with favour by all the other Representatives except the Russian, would be to abandon the idea of recasting the Organic Statutes, and to induce the Sublime Porte, if possible, by representations in support of the desired reforms, to introduce those reforms into the Lebanon by means of instructions or recommendations founded on the Reform Scheme as already submitted to the Porte, and directed by the Porte to the Governor of the Lebanon. It would then be open to any Power to protest, if it chose, against the introduction of any of the reforms on the ground that they were inconsistent with the existing Lebanon Regulations. Thus, if Russia objected, for instance, to the proposed new electoral arrangements, she could easily prevent them without thwarting other portions of the scheme to which, presumably, she could have no objection.

It appeared to me that, in view of the attitude of the Russian Representative, no other course was open to us, and I adhered to the views expressed by M. Constans.

As matters stand, therefore, the Porte has been placed in possession of our views and desires, and it will remain for the two Embassies to follow the matter up, either jointly or separately, if their Governments approve, in order that, if possible, some good

may still result from the labours of the French and British Consuls-General at Beirut in the interests of reform.

Baron de Calice informed the meeting that Hakki Bey, Legal Adviser to the Porte, had mentioned the reform question to him in terms of approval. The scheme had been submitted to him for a report, and he was of opinion that on all the four points it was desirable that action should be taken. The matter must, however, pass through the Council of State and the Council of Ministers in the usual course, before it would be ready for the Sultan's decision.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

No. 111.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 255.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 19, 1902.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 361, Confidential, of the 8th instant, reporting the steps taken by you and your French colleague in regard to the scheme of reforms in the administration of the Lebanon, which has been approved by His Majesty's Government and the Government of France.

I approve your action in the matter, and I concur in the views which you express in your despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 112.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 20.)

(No. 85.)
Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, August 20, 1902.*

LEBANON. Referring to my despatch No. 371 of the 15th instant, I have the honour to report that at a meeting of the foreign Representatives, presided over by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, his Excellency proposed, as a candidate for the Governorship, Danisch Effendi, now serving as Assistant Governor of the Vilayet of Cossovo. We asked for a week to consider whether we could accept him.

It was agreed that pending the appointment of the new Governor, Naoum Pasha should continue to act.

I am obtaining information regarding Danisch Effendi's qualifications.

No. 113.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 21.)

(No 371. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 15, 1902.*

THE two names mentioned at the end of my despatch No. 368, Confidential, of the 14th instant, were passed over by the Sublime Porte, which submitted one new candidate only in response to the request of the Representatives for a fresh list from which to select the new Governor of the Lebanon. The person put forward at the eleventh hour was Vekil Effendi, a former Secretary to the Grand Vizierate. The Porte declared that it had no further candidates to propose.

Feeling assured that Vekil Effendi had no prospect of being accepted, and desiring to prevent, if I could, a deadlock, I determined to avail myself of your Lordship's authorization to withdraw, if necessary, my opposition to Youssouf Bey.

Before proceeding, however, to a meeting of Representatives yesterday morning, I saw Youssouf Bey, and obtained from him certain promises and assurances which I hoped might prove useful in the event of his appointment. At the meeting of Representatives I announced that, in the interest of a speedy settlement in the sense which seemed to

be generally desired, I was now free to support Youssouf Bey. The French Ambassador said he hoped this would remove all difficulties, and the matter seemed settled, when the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, who had been regarded as one of Youssouf's supporters, declared that his instructions would not permit him to acquiesce in his nomination. M. Stcherbatcher turned a deaf ear to M. Constans' appeals and remonstrances, and it became evident that not one of the candidates submitted by the Porte would secure unanimous acceptance.

Nothing remained but to consider the situation which would be created in the Lebanon by the unauthorized extension of Naoum Pasha's term of office beyond to-day, when his term expires, and to draw up a communication to the Sublime Porte.

I inclined to the view that, if an extension proved inevitable, the best course would be to signify the acquiescence of the Powers in a prolongation of Naoum's term for a limited period, say, a month. The opinion, however, prevailed that it would be better to hold the Porte responsible for the situation, and to await its next move. Possibly other candidates may yet be proposed, but the Porte's declaration to the contrary was clear and precise.

After some discussion, the Austrian Ambassador agreed to inform the Porte that its last candidate was rejected, and that the Representatives must throw upon it the responsibility for the irregular situation about to be produced apparently in the Lebanon. This contingency would probably have been avoided, his Excellency was to add, if the Porte had observed the provision of the Protocol of the 9th June, 1861, requiring an agreement with the Representatives three months before the end of the Governor's term of office, and if, further, the Porte had adhered to the traditional practice of discussing and settling the question in a conference with the Representatives, instead of merely sending in a list of names to be discussed by the Representatives among themselves.

As to the motives which led the Russian Chargé d'Affaires to create this situation, I can only conjecture that they may be connected with a preference he had previously shown for the retention of Naoum Pasha for a third term of years, and with the desire which may possibly be felt by Russia to show that in Syrian questions she is now too much interested to submit to be guided by the wishes of her ally.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

No. 114.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 268.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 21, 1902.*

A MEMORANDUM communicated to-day by the Turkish Ambassador states that information has been received by the Turkish Government to the effect that Armenian revolutionists are attempting to provoke disturbances in the Asiatic provinces of Turkey, and that they have determined to assemble in large numbers both in Russia and on the Turco-Persian frontier, with the intention of invading the Ottoman dominions.

The Turkish Government, the Memorandum adds, are taking all necessary measures for assuring the maintenance of order and tranquillity in that portion of the Empire.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 115.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 263. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 25, 1902.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 371 of the 15th instant, reporting the proceedings at a meeting held by the Representatives of the Powers at Constantinople on the 14th instant, to consider the candidates proposed by the Sublime Porte for the Governorship of the Lebanon.

Your action with regard to the candidature of Youssouf Bey, and your attitude at the meeting, as reported in your despatch, is approved by His Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 116.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 375.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 23, 1902.*

WITH reference to recent despatches on the subject of the Lebanon, I have the honour to transmit a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Beirut, repeating his objections to the further extension of Naoum Pasha's term of office as Governor, and to his replacement by a new Governor standing in a family relation with him.

Your Lordship is aware of the difficulties which have arisen, and are not yet surmounted, in connection with this question. It seems now quite possible that Naoum Pasha may be forced upon the Lebanon for a further period as a consequence of the elimination of all the other candidates. I am considering, in consultation with Mr. Consul-General Drummond Hay, whether, in this event, he could obtain from his Excellency, as the price of our support, an undertaking that he will be guided by our advice on certain specified points.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Inclosure in No. 116.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 103.)
Sir, *Beirut, August 15, 1902.*

I HAVE received the Petition, which I had the honour to inform you was being prepared, from inhabitants of the Lebanon, principally of the southern part, complaining of the present state of the Administration.

It is unnecessary to trouble you with the text of this document; but the principal points are as follows:—

1. The present maladministration;

2. The unsuitable appointments now being made by the Governor at the extreme limit of his term; and

3. The fear that no improvement will be introduced if Naoum Pasha is renewed, or if—as he himself is understood to expect—his brother-in-law, Yusuf Bey Franco, or another member of that family is appointed.

All my reports have shown that, for some time past, the government of the Lebanon has been in the hands of a clique surrounding the Governor, who have used their power over him mainly to further their own ends; and I have repeatedly pointed out the necessity that the Governor-General should be impartial, and not show marked favour to any sect or party.*

The most influential among these persons is Emir Mustapha Arslan, who though occupying the Druse post of Kaïmakam of the Shouf, professes to be a Moslem, and is in close connection with the Palace, and especially with Izzet Bey. Through his friends at Constantinople he appears to have learned that, whoever were appointed Governor, pressure might be brought by the Powers to secure his removal from the post of Kaïmakam.

Accordingly, on the 3rd August he suddenly resigned, and, within a few hours, Naoum Pasha, who has never before appointed a Kaïmakam without weeks, or even months, delay, named his cousin, Emir Shekib Arslan, to the post.

At the same time the post of Kaïmakam of Koura, which had been vacant for

* See especially my despatch No. 11, of January 21, 1902 (extract referred to went home in Mr. de Bunsen's despatch No. 302, Confidential).

some months, was filled by the appointment of Emir Bey Giraïdini, who has been for years attached to Emir Mustapha, first as his land agent, and later as a kind of assistant in local politics.

After this, it became known that Naoum Pasha was arranging a series of other appointments, including the change of the Kaïmakam of Jezzin, and the President of the Civil Court of Appeal; the chief reason of which appears to have been the desire to appoint to the latter post—from which it would be very difficult to remove him—a certain Ghattas Effendi, who has been tutor to the sons of Naoum Pasha and Emir Mustapha. This scheme, however, fell through, owing to the absolute refusal of the existing President to exchange his present post for that of Kaïmakam.

The object of the Emir—who has doubtless prompted the Governor in this unusual course, and who is certainly supported by the Palace—is to obtain the nomination of his friends to as many posts as possible, so that though he no longer holds any official position himself, he may not lose his influence. Should the new Governor be a relative of Naoum Pasha, the Emir is no doubt confident of exercising over him the ascendency he has hitherto held. On the other hand, should a person be appointed who has no previous connection with the Mountain, he may well hope that the newly-appointed officials may retain their posts, as their opponents will as yet be unable to prove anything against them.

With regard to the Kaïmakamlik of the Shouf, I beg to refer to my General Report of March 1900, pp. 8 and 9, and to the latter part of my despatch No. 36, Confidential,* of the 25th March last. In the former of these Reports I showed the evil results of the ascendency exercised by the Mukatedjis, who have monopolized all power, especially in that province; and in the latter I urged that steps should be taken to secure the spirit of Article 5 of the Règlement, abolishing the old system.

If it is impossible to appoint to the Shouf Kaïmakamlik a person who does not belong to the two great families, owing to the strong feudal feeling among the Druses, it is very desirable that neither the Arslans nor the Jumblads should retain power for too long a term. Four or five years would be the longest period desirable; and the Arslans have now filled the post for ten years in succession. With regard to the desire expressed in the Lebanon Petition, that the new Governor should not be a relation of Naoum Pasha, or a member of the Franco family, I still hold the view which I expressed in my despatch No. 50, of the 24th April last,† that if Naoum Pasha were not reappointed, it was undesirable that he should be succeeded by a near relative.

Such a person would not have the impartial and independent position which would enable him to correct the many existing abuses, and would almost certainly fall under the influence of those who have guided his father and brother-in-law.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. DRUMMOND HAY.

Annex.

Extract from Consul-General D. Hay's No. 36, 1902.

I BEG also to bring under your Excellency's notice the stipulations of Article 5 of the Statute: "Equality of all before the law; abolition of all feudal privileges, and notably of those belonging to the Mokategi."

In my report on the general condition of the Lebanon, p. 8, I mentioned that this clause had never been properly observed, owing to a desire on the part of the Governor to conciliate the feudal Chiefs, from whose families the Kaïmakams and Mudirs are invariably selected. In the six Christian districts, of which four are governed by Maronite Kaïmakams, it is possible to place a feudal Chief at the head of a district, beyond his own sphere of influence; but with the Druses this system cannot be followed, as they have only one Kaïmakamship in the Mountain.

The Governors have hitherto always appointed either an Arslan or a Djumblat to the post, as, owing to their exceptional position and wealth, they are the most influential Chiefs in the Shouf; but there are several other feudal families of standing from whom a choice might be made when necessary.

* This report was sent home on May 2, 1900. No. 165.
† See last paragraph of my observations therein inclosed. Copy went home in Mr. de Bunsen's No. 362, August 8, 1902.

The natural consequence of the present state of things is a bitter rivalry between the two above-mentioned families; but this evil might be remedied by appointing the Druse Kaïmakam only for a short period, not exceeding four or five years, and by never allowing a member of one party to succeed his Kaïmakam in the post. If instructions in this sense were conveyed to the Governor-General, and faithfully carried out by him, I believe that the interminable intrigues and party strifes prevailing in the Shouf would be considerably diminished, and in course of time reduced to insignificant proportions.

No. 117.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 270.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 29, 1902.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 374, Confidential, of the 20th instant, reporting the proceedings at a meeting of the foreign Representatives, held on that day, to consider the appointment of a successor to Naoum Pasha in the Governorship of the Lebanon.

Your attitude on that occasion has my approval.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 118.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 271.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 30, 1902.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 375 of the 23rd instant inclosing a report from His Majesty's Consul-General at Beirut in regard to the selection of a Governor of the Lebanon, and stating that you are considering, in consultation with Mr. Drummond Hay, whether, in the event of the question of the reappointment of Naoum Pasha being raised, he could obtain an undertaking from his Excellency to be guided by the advice of His Majesty's Consulate-General on certain specified points.

Your action in this matter has my approval.

I am, &c
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 119.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 1.)

(No. 379. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August 27, 1902.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 356, of the 2nd August, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Bitlis, reporting that the apprehensions of danger of further massacre in his district are groundless.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Inclosure in No. 119.

Vice-Consul Freeman to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 8.)
Sir, *Bitlis, August 5, 1902.*

AS I had the honour to inform you by telegram on the 31st July, I believe that the reports received from America concerning the danger of a massacre in any part of this vilayet are pure inventions.

As the result of inquiries which I have endeavoured to make as discreetly as possible in other than official quarters, I have gathered that the Armenian Bishop at

Boston is a hot-headed agitator, native of Gop in Bulanik Sandjak, who fled from the country some years ago, and has been heard from his pulpit urging his Armenian congregation to go and shed their blood for the emancipation of their country.

The Acting Commandant informed me that no fresh troops had come into this vilayet, and, were the contrary the case, I should certainly have heard it, indirectly, from an Armenian merchant who has just arrived from Mush, which is, for the time being, the real centre. Small detachments have relieved one another at Semal, Shenik, &c., in Sasun; a battalion went to Malazgird some time ago, and another battalion, which passed through Bitlis on the 23rd June, is in Gharzan Kaza, where they have quieted the Penjinar tribe by killing four or five and taking forty or fifty prisoners.

His Excellency the Vali, whom I saw again yesterday, told me that 6,000 Armenians—not 8,000, as he had previously stated—had collected at the monastery of Surp Garabet, in consequence of the removal of the prohibition which had been in force since the massacres, and that he had sent the most imperative orders to the Mutessarif of Mush to see to their security while the gathering or fair lasted. I hear to-day from a trustworthy source that the necessary permission, which was obtained by the Patriarchate at Constantinople, was hailed with delight both by the monks, whose chief source of revenue has thus been revived, and by the merchants and pedlars who flocked to Surp Garabet from Mush.

This event shows that the district of Mush is as undisturbed as can be expected so long as the cruelties of tax-gathering zaptiés continue unchecked. The person from whom I obtained the above information had nothing to report as regards disorders of any kind; the Mutessarif himself had gone to Surp Garabet.

The worst locality at present seems to be Malazgird, and the worst offenders the Hamidié officers, Feth-ullah and Riza, whom I had the honour to mention in my despatch No. 6 of the 22nd March. The Vali admits that they are scoundrels, but he has no orders to control them. The late Acting Kaïmakam, Nuri Bey, who returned to Bitlis a few days ago, tells me that, even after his long residence in this province, he had no conception, until he went to Malazgird, of the lawlessness and villainy of these two Hamidié Chiefs. He was able to induce them to stop fighting with others of their tribe, but could do nothing for the Armenians—men and women—whom both of them, but especially Riza, ill-treat and outrage in the most abominable fashion. (I would beg that Nuri Bey's information may be regarded as very confidential, for one of his sons has lately been condemned at Constantinople to imprisonment for life, and he himself is under a cloud.)

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. G. FREEMAN.

No. 120.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 1.)

(No. 380.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August* 27, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 379 of to-day, and to Sir N. O'Conor's No. 548 of the 27th November, 1899, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, reporting the hanging of two Armenians and on the situation generally.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Inclosure in No. 120.

Consul Lamb to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 18.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, August* 12, 1902.

IN the month of November 1899 a party of some 60 or 70 Armenian revolutionaries crossed the frontier from Russia and entered the village of Khatchdour (or Khanzir), in Alashgird. In the fighting and subsequent disorders which ensued, about 10 revolutionaries, 91 villagers (87 men and 4 women), 8 Kurds, and 3 soldiers were reported to have been killed. One wounded revolutionary fell into the hands of the police, while about 60 inhabitants of Khatchdour and two neighbouring villages

were arrested. Of these upwards of 20 were detained in prison at Bayezid until quite recently, when all but 7 or 8 were released. On the morning of the 5th instant, in consequence of telegraphic instructions from Constantinople, two of these men, viz., the wounded revolutionary above-mentioned (who appears to have been originally from Gop, in Boulanyk, and, consequently, a fellow-townsman of the fire-eating Boston Bishop alluded to in Vice-Consul Freeman's recent despatch) and Khatchik Varzhabed, the village schoolmaster, were hanged at Bayezid. It was at first intended to send them for execution at Erzeroum, but at the last moment, in consequence, I believe, of certain objections raised by the Vali, it was decided to carry out their sentence on the spot.

I cannot help thinking that the execution of these men is intended as a reply to the pro-Armenian demonstrations, which have recently been reported in the European press as having taken place at Brussels, but I wish I could also think that these two men were the only Armenians who will be made to suffer for the misguided activity of their "friends" abroad. Under existing circumstances, all agitation of the nature indicated in the programme adopted by the "Pan-American Congress" can only result in increasing the severity of those restrictive measures which weigh so heavily upon the Armenians of Kurdistan, in aggravating the suspicion with which they are regarded by the Central Government, and the hostility of the Mahommedan populations by whom they are surrounded, and in adding in every way to their difficulties and their sufferings without, so far as I can see, the slightest possibility of effecting any good. The greatest service that one could at present hope to render to this nation would be to persuade their champions in other countries to desist from calling public attention to their discontent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY H. LAMB.

No. 121.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 6.)

(No. 384. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 29, 1902.

A FURTHER meeting of Representatives was held at the Austrian Embassy yesterday afternoon, in the presence of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, to decide upon the candidature of Danish Effendi for the post of Governor of the Lebanon. This gentleman, who is now Assistant Governor of the Vilayet of Kossovo, has no reputation for ability, but, throughout a long and varied official career, administrative, diplomatic, and Consular, it does not appear that his personal integrity has been called in question. In the absence of any other candidate he was accepted by all the Representatives except the Russian, who categorically refused him without giving his reasons.

Tewfik Pasha then declared that he had no other name to submit. He had proposed eight candidates, including the present Governor, none of whom had secured the necessary unanimous vote. His Excellency thought that the Porte would now be fully justified in dealing with the situation unaided, but he asked what was the opinion of the meeting.

The rest of the proceedings resolved themselves into a duel between the French Ambassador and M. Stcherbatchew. The latter having announced that M. Zinoview would certainly return with full instructions within ten or twelve days, there was a general feeling that Naoum Pasha's powers should be prolonged for a fortnight, with the consent of the Embassies, as had been done at the last meeting, when his powers were extended till the 28th instant.

It was hoped that the Ambassador might accept one of the names rejected by the Chargé d'Affaires, and that at all events he might display a more conciliatory disposition than his subordinate. The situation would thus remain a regular one, the Powers co-operating with the Porte to carry on the Government.

M. Constans, however, refused with considerable warmth to sanction any further provisional extension of Naoum's term of office, except on the distinct understanding that, in the event of the Embassies failing in the meantime to select a Governor, the Porte should, without consulting them, appoint Naoum's second in command as *locum tenens*. His Excellency urged that the ordinary rule should operate, in virtue of which the current business of an office devolves naturally upon the next in rank,

during the temporary absences of the chief. There was no reason why this should not be done in the Lebanon, and the Powers would have nothing to say in the matter.

M. Steherbatchew refused to accept this theory. The Government of the Lebanon reposed upon an international Act, in which no official was designated who could be termed the second in command. At one time there was a Secretary-General, but when, some twenty years ago, he took upon himself to perform administrative work in the temporary absence of the Governor, Russia had at once protested and refused to recognize them. She would do so again if the occasion arose. The office, moreover, of Secretary-General had since been suppressed. The Russian Chargé d'Affaires would give no vote which could be construed into an admission that, in any circumstances, a person could be allowed to act as Governor for however short a period without the consent of the Signatories of the Organic Act.

The real point at issue was the maintenance of Naoum Pasha for a third term of office, which is desired by the Porte and the Russian Embassy. I have concurred throughout with M. Constans in objecting to such an arrangement, for the reasons repeatedly urged by the British Consul-General at Beirout, as well as by his French colleague. I would have accepted, however, another fortnight of Naoum's rule on the chance of securing a final settlement by waiting for the return of the absent Ambassadors. M. Constans would not hear of Naoum's retention for another day, except on the condition explained above, which M. Steherbatchew had positively rejected. His Excellency was not prepared to make the smallest concession which might lead, as he seemed to think, to Naoum's final reinstatement and so to the triumph of the policy of Turkey and Russia.

In these circumstances no vote was obtainable even for a renewal of Naoum's powers for a fortnight.

Tewfik Pasha, however, took note of the fact that such temporary renewal was favoured by the majority of the Representatives, and it seems probable that orders will be sent to Naoum Pasha accordingly. If so, his powers will be no longer invested with international sanction.

For this situation the conflict between the French and Russian Representatives is responsible. The latter is determined that the Governor of the Lebanon shall be the person selected by the Russian Embassy. M. Constans is equally determined to assert a position of pre-eminence for France, and he prefers that Turkey should have a free hand to appoint an Acting Governor in the Lebanon without the concurrence of the Embassies, rather than give a point in the game to his "ally" by keeping Naoum Pasha in office even a few days longer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

No. 122.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 6.)

(No. 90.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, September* 6, 1902.

I AM informed, confidentially, by the French Ambassador, that he hears that the Russian Ambassador, who is expected here to-morrow, has instructions from his Government to propose an Orthodox Christian as Governor of the Lebanon.

M. Constans says that he will refuse any Orthodox candidate categorically, without giving any reason, and I propose to do the same. His Excellency added that his Government seemed much pleased by the desire expressed by your Lordship to consult with them regarding the Lebanon question. They had instructed him to work with me, and he understood that I would be furnished with orders in the same sense.

I replied that I believed that it was your Lordship's wish that the two Embassies should work together in the matter.

No. 123.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 94.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, September* 8, 1902.

LEBANON. I approve your intention as reported in your telegram No. 90, Confidential, of the 6th instant.

You should act as much as possible with your French colleague in the line which it seems he is inclined to take in this matter.

No. 124.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 15.)

(No. 398.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 9, 1902.

M. CONSTANS, who came to see me shortly after my return, complained with a good deal of feeling of the intractable attitude of the Russian Chargé d'Affaires in the negotiations connected with the appointment of a new Governor-General for the Lebanon.

He believed—in fact he understood from news which he had just received from Paris—that the explanation of M. Steherbatchew's conduct was due to the intention of the Russian Ambassador, urged by M. Pobedonostzeff, to force the Turkish Government to propose an Orthodox Ottoman as Governor-General, and that to effect this end the Russian Embassy would reject every Roman Catholic candidate proposed by the Sublime Porte. M. Constans said that if this proved to be the case, he would vote against every Orthodox candidate that might be proposed. He would decline, on political grounds, to enter into a discussion which might lead him too far, and he would decline to give any reason for his action beyond stating that the proposed candidate did not seem a suitable one.

Meantime, the situation of affairs in the Lebanon was entirely irregular, as the period for which Naoum Pasha's tenure of office had been prolonged has expired. He had two suggestions to make to end this state of things. The one was that the Porte should instruct Naoum Pasha to come away and leave the President of the Administrative Council temporarily in charge pending an agreement between the Ambassadors. By this means every chance of Naoum Pasha remaining in office would be avoided, and though he did not think that the President of the Assembly, who was a Maronite, could permanently remain as Governor, it would give us time to try and come to an unanimous agreement.

The other was that the Porte should, in view of the attitude of the Russian Embassy, independently appoint a Governor-General. As I was to see Tewfik Pasha shortly, he thought I might make a suggestion to him in this sense. I said that I could not urge the Ottoman Government to override an International Convention on the ground that there had been some difficulty and delay in the foreign Representatives coming to an unanimous agreement among themselves, but that I saw no objection to his first proposal, and if opportunity offered, I would lay it before the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Tewfik Pasha spoke to me yesterday on the subject. He said that he was in a position of great difficulty owing to the non-agreement of the Ambassadors, that the Sultan and the Grand Vizier requested him to take a final decision, and that Naoum Pasha himself was anxious to get away, and had pointed out that this position was now altogether irregular, and that he could not maintain it much longer.

I told Tewfik Pasha that I thought the temporary appointment of the President of the Administrative Assembly as Acting Governor-General for the discharge of current business would be preferable to the appointment of a permanent Governor-General without the consent of the Ambassadors, and against whose appointment one or other of the Representatives would be likely to protest.

As regarded the rumour that the Russian Ambassador would, upon his return, suggest the appointment of an Ottoman subject, of the Greek Orthodox Church, Tewfik Pasha had no information, but he imagined that the idea was entertained at St. Petersburgh, as he had had, within the last few weeks, applications for the post from several Orthodox candidates. Although the Organic Statute merely required a Christian

Governor without stating that he was to be a Latin Catholic, he believed there had been an exchange of notes between the Sublime Porte and the Embassies in the time of Ali Pasha, from which it resulted that the Vali must be a Latin Catholic. He hoped something would be done to relieve the present deadlock even if, as now seemed likely, M. Zinoview did not return as soon as he was expected.

It will be known positively this evening when the Russian Ambassador returns, and, if he does not do so within a day or two, the Representatives will probably meet, and, failing the Russian approval of one or other of the Porte's candidates, advise the Ottoman Government to appoint an Acting Governor pending an agreement among the Ambassadors.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 125.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 15.)

(No. 399.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September* 10, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout, reporting a disturbance between Christians and Moslems at Nazareth.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 125.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 109.)
Sir, *Beyrout, August* 29 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch from the Acting Vice-Consul at Haifa, reporting a recent disturbance between Christians and Moslems at Nazareth.

I understand that order has been entirely restored, and that the incident is at an end.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 125.

Acting Vice-Consul Abela to Consul-General Drummond Hay.

(No. 34.)
Sir, *Haifa, August* 19, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that a quarrel took place on the 15th instant between the Christians and the Mahommedans. Each party had some eight to ten wounded. Crowds of people were then at Nazareth because of St. Mary's Day on 14th August, which is usually celebrated there with great processions. Many people from Haifa went also last week. The French Vice-Consul here and his wife went to attend the mass there. A band, composed of thirty persons belonging to the Latin Church here, was invited also. The quarrel began last Saturday morning between some ten Haifa Christians and the Mahommedan peasants who occupy the threshing grounds of Nazareth, numbering, it is alleged, more than 100 persons. But this quarrel was at once settled on the intervention of some Turkish policemen and the cavass of the French Vice-Consul, who brought all the Haifa people within the walls of the "Casa Nuova." But at noon the boys of the band had to take their lunch at the monastery of the "Dames de Nazareth." They went with their chief, a Spanish priest, and the cavass of the French Vice-Consul. On their arrival at the threshing grounds they were attacked with stones by the peasants. They hurried up to enter the monastery, but they were followed by them. It is reported that the priest and the cavass and all the boys were severely beaten with stones before they were able to take refuge in the monastery. The peasants afterwards, with stones and sticks, turned to the other side of the village, their number being increased with other Mahommedans also, and surrounded the "Casa Nuova," where the French Vice-Consul and the rest of the Haifa people were present. It is said that the Mahommedans tried to enter the building, but they were not able. Nevertheless they broke many windows with stones. The building, it is alleged by many, was surrounded and treated in this manner for about one hour. The house belonging to Hanna Mansour, a dragoman of a French monastery, and consequently a French protected person, was attacked, and all its windows were broken. Only a few stones were thrown at the monastery of the "Dames de Nazareth." The Moslems proceeded afterwards to the market towards the Christian quarter. There the Nazareth Christians engaged in the quarrel. The policemen were not able to put an end to this disturbance before 2 P.M. One of the policemen, in trying to make peace, wounded a Christian severely in the shoulder by his bayonet. There is a complaint against the conduct of the soldiers who, assuming to quench the quarrel, assisted the Mahommedans against the Christians. During the quarrel a Maronite Christian died of some old sickness. To profit by this occasion some Christians wounded the dead man, and intended to declare that his death was caused by wounds received from Mahommedans; but they were prevented to do it by some wise Christians. The French Vice-Consul sent a telegram to Beyrout to his Consul-General reporting the state of things, and another to the Mutessarif of Acre, who sent at once seventy soldiers, infantry, and went himself with an artillery Major to Nazareth. About sixty cavalry gendarmes went also from the neighbouring cazas. It is stated that some Mahommedans of the neighbouring villages were called to assist their brethren against the Christians, but, fearing the consequences, they refused to come. The Mutessarif of Acre on his arrival called the notables of the village, and threatened them with being responsible for any further disturbance. He ordered that the Haifa people should return to Haifa. The boys of the band left Nazareth escorted for some distance with soldiers. The French Vice-Consul returned here yesterday at 2 A.M. The Acre Public Prosecutor and the Mustanlik arrived yesterday morning in Nazareth. It is reported that five Mahommedans and eight Christians of Nazareth were hitherto arrested. It is stated that the Mahommedans were irritated one day before the occurrence of the quarrel by some Christians with regard to some singing women in a coffee-house. Some attribute to the above-mentioned Hanna Mansour to have caused this grudge among the Mahommedans because of his taking recently legal proceedings against some Mahommedans in a matter of lands, and his causing some of them to be called to Beyrout to answer before the Vali for some accusations directed by him against them.

It would appear that the French Vice-Consulate here is trying to give no importance to the matter whatever. It is supposed that the French Government fearing to fail in some of its claims because of the recent Imperial Iradé which puts an end to its pretended rights of protecting the Catholic Christian religion in the East, does not seem to hold the matter in an energetic manner. The Spanish priest who was thrown with stones by the peasants is quite silent, and does not complain at all.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. ABELA.

No. 126.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 291.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 20, 1902.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 398 of the 9th instant, reporting conversations which you have had with the French Ambassador and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, on the subject of the Governorship of the Lebanon. I approve your attitude and the language held by you to M. Constans and Tewfik Pasha, as described in your despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 127.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 21.)

(No. 94.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, September* 20, 1902.

THE Ambassadors met this afternoon and unanimously accepted Muzaffer Pasha, General of Division and head of the Imperial Haras, as Governor of the Lebanon. The official notification of this selection will be delayed for a few days as it is necessary for the Ambassadors to assemble in the presence of the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Muzaffer Pasha is not the special candidate of any one Power. He has the reputation of being a man of fair ability and singular integrity.

No. 128.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 22.)

(No. 404.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 16, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 398 of the 10th instant, I have the honour to report that Mr. Drummond-Hay informs me that the delay in the election of a Governor-General of the Lebanon is causing unrest especially in the Shouf, and that the majority of the people are opposed to the continuance of the present Governor in office or the appointment of a member of the Franco family.

The Russian stationnaire proceeded to Sebastopol last Thursday to meet the Ambassador, and his arrival is now expected daily.

In conversation with the Minister for Foreign Affairs a few days ago, I suggested that he should endeavour to obtain the Sultan's approval of a candidate—such for instance as the Minister of the Civil List—who would be accepted by Russia as well as by the other Powers. If he did not come to our next meeting prepared to present the names of some other candidates than those who were already proposed there was a danger of the deadlock continuing. I mentioned the name of M. Conyoumjian, now Secretary of Embassy at Rome, as possibly a suitable candidate, and on reporting to M. Constans that I had done so, his Excellency said that he would be willing to vote for him. M. Conyoumjian is described to me by Sir Rennell Rodd as an honourable and agreeable Armenian of timid disposition and of probably rather liberal opinions. The Minister for Foreign Affairs is of opinion that he would prove a satisfactory Governor, but he does not seem at all sure that his Armenian descent will not appear to the Sultan sufficient reason for refusing to submit his name for this high office.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 129.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 27.)

(No. 98.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, September* 27, 1902.

LEBANON Governorship.

At a meeting to-day the foreign Representatives and Tewfik Pasha unanimously agreed upon the election of Muzaffer Pasha.

The Protocol was signed with the insertion of a clause reminding the Ottoman Government of the recommendations which were made to the Sublime Porte in 1892.

No. 130.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 29.)

(No. 410.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 19, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that the "Gazette" announces the recall of Ennis Pasha, the Vali of Aleppo.

In my despatch No. 240 of the 10th July, 1900, and subsequent correspondence, I reported the protest which I made to the Sublime Porte in concert with my colleagues against the appointment of this man who, as will be remembered by your Lordship's Department, rendered himself notorious at the time of the massacres as Vali of Diarbekr.

I subsequently spoke to the Sultan and obtained an assurance from His Imperial Majesty that Ennis Pasha would be removed, but notwithstanding further representations to the Sublime Porte, both by me and my French colleague, it was only a few days ago that the Sultan issued the necessary Iradé on the subject.

Ennis Pasha is succeeded by Medjid Effendi, late Inspector of Reforms in Hauran, and formerly Vali of Bitlis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 131.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 29.)

(No. 417. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 23, 1902.

REFERRING to my telegram No. 94 of the 20th instant, I have the honour to report that the Representatives of the Six Great Powers met yesterday morning at the Austrian Embassy in consequence of a notification that the Minister for Foreign Affairs had signified to the doyen, Baron de Calice, his intention of being present.

After waiting nearly an hour a telegram arrived from the Minister saying that he was prevented by other duties from attending the meeting, but that he would send Noury Bey, Secretary-General of the Ministry, with the Protocol and other papers concerning the nomination of the Governor of the Lebanon.

The Ambassadors were unanimously of opinion that, after assembling in conclave at the request of the Minister for Foreign Affairs in connection with an important international question, they could not regard a Secretary as the proper representative of the Minister, and that anxious as they were not to delay the appointment of a successor to Naoum Pasha, they must decline to receive him in this character.

Baron de Calice was therefore requested to telegraph to the Minister that they regretted his absence all the more that it was only in his Excellency's presence that they could record their votes which had unanimously been given in favour of one of the candidates named by the Sultan, and that the Ambassadors requested his Excellency to convoke a meeting at an early date.

Subsequently, but late in the afternoon, Noury Bey called at the Austrian Embassy, and a communication in the sense of the telegram to the Minister was made to him by the Austrian First Dragoman.

Noury Bey gave the Dragoman to understand that the Minister had acted under direct orders from the Sultan, who sent him word that, as he had already assisted at two meetings without any result, it was unnecessary he should again meet the Ambassadors, and that he had better depute his Secretary-General to represent him. Noury Bey also intimated, confidentially and unofficially, that as Naoum Pasha had conducted the affairs of the Lebanon satisfactorily during his prolonged tenure of office, it was the Sultan's desire that he should be nominated Governor of the Lebanon.

This development of the question was quite unexpected, and it is the more regrettable that the Russian Ambassador had given up his candidature of Naoum Pasha, and the French Ambassador, Yusuf Bey, with a view to the unanimity of votes

in favour of Muzaffer Pasha; whom His Majesty's Embassy had been willing to accept from the start.

The conflict of opinion and apparent bickerings between the Russian Chargé d'Affaires and the French Ambassador were not continued by M. Zinoview, who merely refused to accept Yusuf Bey, while on the other hand giving up Naoum Pasha, and not proposing, as was currently rumoured, an Orthodox. M. Constans, however, made no secret of his disappointment about Yusuf and the sacrifice he was making of his personal pride in voting for Muzaffer Pasha, whom he had twice refused. It looked, however, very much as if influence had been brought to bear at Paris and St. Petersburgh to reconcile the differences of the two Embassies, and as if M. Constans, like his predecessor at the French Embassy, was ill content with the decision of the Quai d'Orsay, which in this, as in so many other questions, was ready to sacrifice the French influence and prestige locally to the exigencies and advantages of the Franco-Russian alliance generally.

If, as I sincerely hope may be the case, the Ambassadors abide by their late decision, it is hardly likely that the Sultan will persist in his desire to see Naoum Pasha reappointed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 132.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September 29.*)

(No. 418.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September 23, 1902.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 399 of the 10th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout, inclosing further particulars received from His Majesty's Acting Vice-Consul at Haifa, as to recent disturbances at Nazareth.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 132.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 110.)
Sir, *Beyrout, September 10, 1902.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 109 of the 29th August, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a further Report forwarded to me by Acting Vice-Consul Abela, relative to the disturbance at Nazareth between Moslems and Christians.

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 132.

Acting Vice-Consul Abela to Consul-General Drummond Hay.

(No. 35.)
Sir, *Haifa, August 29, 1902.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 34 of the 19th instant, I have the honour to report that the Mutessarif of Acre, before his leaving Nazareth, has, it is alleged, effected a reconciliation between the Christian and the Mahommedan inhabitants there. Eleven Christian persons of Haifa have been summoned to appear before the Mustamlik of Acre yesterday. Of the eleven summoned only the Mukhtar of the Greek Catholic sect of Haifa and the coachman who carried the French Vice-Consul to Nazareth have gone and made their statements and come back. The rest have been frightened by the news that the Government intended to arrest them. It is stated that the French Vice-Consul will very likely support the Haifa people.

I beg to add that the French Vice-Consul has made no complaint against those who attacked the French institutions at Nazareth in his presence. The Christians of both Haifa and Nazareth who looked at the French Vice-Consul as something like a patron and protector, have been utterly disappointed by his present attitude in regard to this matter. Consequently, a great deal of his popularity has been lost.

I am, &c.
(Signed) P. ABELA.

No. 133.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 304.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 2, 1902.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 410 of the 19th ultimo reporting that Ennis Pasha has been recalled from the post of Vali of Aleppo.

I have heard with much satisfaction that the representations made by you and your French colleague as to the unfitness of Ennis Pasha for the appointment have been successful.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 134.

Armenian Refugees in Russia to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October 8.*)

Excellence, *Le 10 (23) Septembre, 1902.*

NOUS, les Arméniens de la Turquie, sujets Ottomans, forcés d'émigrer lors des grands massacres des Arméniens en 1894–1896 et refugiés sur le sol hospitalier de la Russie, au nombre de 40,000 à 50,000 âmes, venons implorer, par la présente requête, le Gouvernement de la grande nation Anglaise, comme nous avons déjà imploré le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de toutes les Russies, de vouloir bien nous porter aide et protection dans l'état affreux et insupportable où nous nous trouvons actuellement.

Nous ne sommes pas des criminels, nous n'avons commis aucun crime, mais nous étions obligés de quitter notre pays natal, poussés seulement par la misère et par la crainte des massacres.

Pendant sept années la Russie nous a accordé hospitalité et asile, en nous procurant possibilité de gagner notre vie et celle de nos familles laissées en Turquie.

Notre reconnaissance envers Sa Majesté l'Empereur Nicolas II et la nation Russe est sans bornes. Par le produit de notre travail nous n'avons pas manqué de payer au Gouvernement Ottoman tous les impôts et toutes les contributions dont nos familles ont été chargées pendant notre absence.

Cependant, le temps est arrivé pour rentrer dans notre pays natal, puisque nous ne pouvons pas profiter de la proposition magnanime du Gouvernement Russe d'accepter la sujétion Russe par la raison que nos familles restées en Turquie n'ont pas la possibilité de nous rejoindre en Russie. Et quittant les villes et villages Russes, où nous étions refugiés, nous nous sommes groupés sur la frontière Russo-Turque, mais le Gouvernement Ottoman, qui tout le temps, pendant sept années, nous a reconnu comme ses sujets et nous a fait payer tous les impôts, refuse de nous laisser retourner à notre patrie. L'hiver s'approche et notre situation devient des plus déplorables.

Par conséquent, nous sommes obligés de recourir à la protection de la Grande-Bretagne et d'implorer le Gouvernement Britannique, au nom de l'humanité, de vouloir bien intercéder en notre faveur auprès du Gouvernement Ottoman pour nous laisser rentrer sur le sol natal, chez nos familles et laisser labourer nos champs et terres.

Représentants et délégués des Arméniens Ottomans, refugiés en Russie, et groupés sur la frontière Russo-Turque.

(Suivent les signatures.)

No. 135.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 13.)

(No. 437.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 7*, 1902.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 98 of the 27th ultimo, I have now the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of the Protocol which was presented by the Minister for Foreign Affairs to the foreign Representatives in regard to the election of a Governor-General of the Lebanon.

At the opening of the meeting the Minister for Foreign Affairs was informed that the Representatives were unanimously in favour of the nomination of Mouzaffer Pasha, and upon his Excellency proposing him, our votes were recorded accordingly, and his nomination approved by the Minister on behalf of the Ottoman Government.

Some discussion ensued as to the exact terms of the recommendations to be inserted in the Protocol, and upon its appearing that there would not be unanimity in favour of those inclosed in Mr. de Bunsen's despatch No. 361, Confidential, of the 8th August, which, as your Lordship is aware, were presented to the Sublime Porte by him and by the French Ambassador, it was decided to abide by the recommendations contained in the Protocol of 1892, and to embody them in the present document.

I have received from Mouzaffer Pasha, who was good enough to call upon me next day, very satisfactory assurances as to his desire to introduce the reforms recommended by the Representatives, and to preserve the rights and privileges of the Lebanon. I am also pleased to be able to report that Mr. Drummond-Hay informs me by telegraph that the election of Mouzaffer Pasha has given general satisfaction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 135.

Protocol signed at Constantinople, September 20, 1902.

LE poste de Gouverneur de Liban étant devenu vacant par suite de l'expiration de la seconde période de cinq ans des pouvoirs de Nuoum Pacha, Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan a daigné nommer à ce poste Muzaffer Pacha, Général de Division, Aide-de-camp de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan et les Représentants des Puissances Signataires du Règlement Organique du Liban en date du 9 Juin, 1861, de celui du 6 Septembre, 1864, ainsi que des Protocoles du 27 Juillet, 1868, 22 Avril, 1873, 8 Mai, 1883, 15 Août, 1892, et 14 Août, 1897, ont été unanimes pour constater, par le présent Protocole, l'accord préalable qui, à l'occasion de cette nomination, s'est établi entre eux et la Sublime Porte.

La Sublime Porte, ainsi que les Représentants des Puissances, déclarent maintenir les dispositions des Protocoles du 15 Août, 1892, et 14 Août, 1897, relatives au terme de cinq ans assignés aux pouvoirs du Gouverneur.

Les Représentants des Puissances rappellent à la Sublime Porte l'engagement pris par son Excellence Seïd Pacha au nom du Gouvernement Ottoman par le Protocole du 15 Août, 1892, de recommander au Gouverneur du Liban la mise en exécution des trois demandes formulées dans le dit Protocole et stipulant—

1. Que les élections du Medjliss administratif doivent être faites avec toutes les garanties d'indépendance désirables et que les attributions de cette assemblée doivent être respectées;

2. Que l'organisation judiciaire instituée par le Règlement du 6 Septembre, 1864, ne pourra pas être modifiée sans l'assentiment des Puissances; et

3. Que les garanties données aux Magistrats par l'Article 11 du même Règlement seront respectées, les déplacements et révocations de ces fonctionnaires ne pouvant avoir lieu qu'après enquête faite par les soins du Medjliss administratif.

Les Représentants des Puissances constatent que l'engagement pris par son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères de Turquie en 1892 au sujet de ces stipulations équivaut à leur insertion dans le Statut du Liban.

En foi de quoi les Plénipotentiaires respectifs ont signé le présent Protocole, et y ont apposé le sceau de leurs armes.

Fait à Constantinople, le 27 Septembre, 1902.

(Signé) TEWFIK.
J. ZINOVIEW.
CONSTANS.
WANGENHEIM.
CALICE.
N. R. O'CONOR.
MALASPINA.

Conforme à l'original:
(Seal of the Secretariat-General of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.)

No. 136.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 13.)

(No. 438.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 7*, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Bitlis, respecting the death of the notorious robber, Mustafa Pasha, at the hands of the Shirnak Kurds.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 136.

Vice-Consul Freeman to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 12.)
Sir, *Bitlis, September* 23, 1902.

IN confirmation of my telegram of the 17th instant, I have the honour to report that on or about the 14th a band of Shirnak Kurds fell upon the notorious robber, Mustafa Pasha, Chief of the Miran tribe, and a Colonel of Hamidiès, killing him with seven or eight of his followers, and wounding as many more. I have not been able to check these numbers, which were given by his Excellency the Vali, or to find out whether the attacking party lost any men. The fight appears to have taken place in the Istoshker defile, which lies, I believe, at about 1½ hours' march north or west of Shirnak, and 2 hours' from Dergül, in the kaza of Eruh. Mustafa Pasha was on his way back to Jezirè from his summer quarters on the mountains south of Lake Van. The Vali told me that on the very day of the fight the two tribes had promised to put an end to their long-standing feud, the reconciliation having been brought about through the instrumentality of two companies of regulars from Bitlis (belonging to the 1st Battalion of the 32nd Regiment) which had been stationed for some time past in Eruh kaza. I am told that these two companies have now gone to Jezirè, presumably to escort the remainder of Mustafa's following. Their assailants appear to have been under the command of Abdurrahman, son of the late Mehmed Agha, Chief of the Shirnak tribe. It is not likely that any but very lukewarm attempts will be made to effect their capture. Mustafa Pasha's death is clearly considered as a good riddance of very bad rubbish, and, to judge by the jocular tone in which the Vali spoke of it, his Excellency shares the general opinion.

The Shirnak tribe, divided into several kubilès, are spread over the kazas of Eruh and Berwari in this vilayet, and part of the Vilayet of Van, and can muster a far larger number of armed men than their enemies of the Miran tribe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. G. FREEMAN.

No. 137.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 13.)

(No. 439. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 7, 1902.*

I HAD heard some time ago a vague report that the Russian Government were trying to buy land both in the Black Sea and the Mediterranean with a view to the establishment of coaling-stations, but I was not able to ascertain anything definite.

On receipt of your Lordship's Confidential telegram No. 100 of the 3rd instant, stating that the German Government informed you that they had more precise information of the same nature, I asked the Grand Vizier yesterday whether he had heard anything in this sense. His Highness replied that he had heard a rumour of something of the kind; that he knew nothing more; and that in any case the Russians had not preferred any such request to the Sublime Porte. If negotiations existed they must be going on between the Palace and the Russian Embassy. He had, however, taken the precaution to instruct the Land Registration Department to keep a careful watch and not to transfer property to Russians which might serve the required purpose.

It is curious and, perhaps, worth while to note that the Dragoman of the German Embassy, who is unusually well informed and the regular channel of communication with the Palace, seems to be without information of any definite kind such as was communicated to your Lordship. It may be assumed that a Russian coaling-station on the Gulf of Scanderoon would be extremely disagreeable to the Germans, on account of the Bagdad Railway, which will probably eventually reach the sea in that neighbourhood.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 138.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 306.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 13, 1902.*

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of a Petition from a body of Armenian refugees on the Russo-Turkish frontier,* requesting the assistance of His Majesty's Government in obtaining the permission of the Porte for them to return to their homes in Turkey.

I request that your Excellency will furnish me with any observations you may have to offer on this Petition.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 139.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 322.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 30, 1902.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 450 of the 18th instant relative to the request made on behalf of a number of Armenians who took refuge in Russia during the massacres that His Majesty's Government will use their good offices with the Turkish Government in order to procure permission for their return to Turkey.

I concur in your view that it is unlikely that any useful result would be obtained by the intervention of His Majesty's Government in this matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

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* No 134.

No. 140.

Sir R. Rodd to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 3.)

(No. 217.)

My Lord, *Rome, October 30, 1902.*

A PILGRIMAGE made to the Holy Land by a large party of Italian Catholics under the guidance of the Cardinal Archbishop of Milan, and the manner in which Cardinal Ferrari was there received, has drawn public attention in this country once more to the question of protection of Catholics in the Ottoman dominions, and has been widely discussed in the press both here and in France. Some little surprise, combined with satisfaction, has been expressed in Italy that, in the ceremonial connected with this visit, it was the Italian and not the French Consul-General who took charge of the pilgrimage.

I asked the Minister for Foreign Affairs yesterday what had actually taken place, and what were the views held by the Italian Government on this subject.

M. Prinetti replied that he drew a distinction between the protection of the holy places and of the Church as a congregation composed of various elements and the protection of individuals or groups of individuals in their character as Italian subjects. While he found no difficulty in accepting the traditional protection over the Church as a moral entity which was exercised by France in the East, he could not admit that the duty of protecting the interests of individual Catholics who were of Italian nationality could be alienated from the Italian Government.

In a recent trial at Jerusalem of certain Orthodox Monks who had committed a grave assault on some Franciscans, he had followed the precedent set by Germany, and had claimed that the Italian Consular Representative should watch the case on behalf of such Franciscan Monks as were of Italian nationality.

So also on the occasion of the recent Lombard pilgrimage he had instructed the Italian Consul to take charge exclusively of the pilgrims, and to receive the Cardinal Archbishop with the honours paid to a Prince of the blood Royal.

The instructions had been carried out with tact and success by the Italian Consul, and, so far as he was aware, the French Consul had accepted the situation thus created without any difficulty.

I gather, however, from conversation with Mgr. Stonor, that in Catholic circles the episode is looked upon as one more set-back to the claims of France to a monopoly of the right to protect Catholics in the East.

Mgr. Stonor, in referring to this matter, also mentioned to me a conversation which he had had the other day with Father David, the pro-General of the Franciscan Order. It is remarkable that Father David, as an Englishman, should have been appointed pro-General of the Order, for, on the death of the General, the pro-General fills his functions for the remainder of his term of office. This combination has actually occurred, and Father David has now been exercising the office of General for some time with such marked ability that I am informed he will almost certainly be elected General himself when his provisional term of office expires.

The administration of the Catholic Church in Egypt is, as your Lordship is doubtless aware, intrusted to missionaries of the Franciscan Order. It has for a long time been desired that an English Catholic priest should be appointed at Port Said, but hitherto the French have always opposed such an appointment, and secured the nomination of an English-speaking French priest. The place has recently fallen vacant, and Father David expressed to the Monsignore his great satisfaction that, "now we have got rid of the French protectorate in the East, it has at last become possible to appoint an English priest at Port Said."

I have, &c.

(Signed) RENNELL RODD.

No. 141.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 10.)

(No. 482.)
Constantinople, November 3, 1902.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a despatch received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, reporting on his recent journey in Bohtan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 141.

Vice-Consul Tyrrell to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 23.)
Van, October 7, 1902.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that I have just returned from a journey in the Bohtan country. The time of year, unfortunately, was that of annual migration of the various kocher (nomad) tribes from their summer quarters in the mountains of the basin of the Bohtan River to the plains on the banks of the Tigris, where they winter. For this reason the roads by which I had intended to visit the interior of Bohtan were closed to me; I had some difficulty in getting into the country, and had to make a détour from the south-west, so as to allow the nomads to pass.

I went by way of the Pezandasht plain to Mükûs. Pezandasht is a rather bleak plateau, 7,500 feet above sea-level, and about 4 miles in diameter. Though surrounded by mountains, it is subject to very cold winds, and could probably not be made to produce more than enough to support the four villages which it now contains. Pezandasht is in the Caza of Shattakh, and its inhabitants, who are all Armenian, have grateful recollections of Lutfi Bey, who, when he was Kaïmakam of Shattakh, secured them protection from predatory Kurds, for the first time, by building a small barracks in the plain and stationing a dozen soldiers there. This suffices to keep the nomad Kurds away, and is still kept up. Lutfi Bey also made a road from Pezandasht, which connects with the road he made from Shattakh to Van.

At Mükûs I found Muti'ulla Bey, a very fine specimen of the old Kurdish patriarchal Dérehey. He has been mentioned by my predecessors.* He is an enlightened and beneficent man, and I was forcibly struck by the thriving appearance of Mükûs and of its inhabitants. Here Kurd and Armenian live together happily. There was no massacre in Mükûs, as Muti'ulla Bey prevented it, at the risk of his own life, in the teeth of the Kaïmakam and soldiers, and in spite of the active opposition of members of his own family.

I may mention that Mükûs is the name of the district, and is not applied to the chief village, which is simply known as cassaba—being the seat of Government of the Caza. Mükûs consists of a stretch of the valley of the Mükûs River, and of five smaller valleys running into it, and contains between thirty and forty villages. The cassaba is built on both banks of the river, is divided into five muhallas, and has 180 houses, of which 100 are Mussulman and the rest Armenian. Muti'ulla Bey's house is in Aughin, a village about two miles down-stream from the cassaba. Muti'ulla Bey has never been further than Van, and is very anxious to travel and visit Constantinople, and, if possible, Europe, the two obstacles to this course at present being, first, the unwillingness of the Turkish officials that he should leave the country—for they recognize that he is a man of great influence, which he uses on the side of order and good government—secondly, the want of funds. He does not supply this deficiency by avarice or oppression. I was struck during my intercourse with him by the fact that he scrupulously avoided referring to the valleys

* Major Maunsell, No. 93, October 30, 1899; Sir E. Satow, No. 20, September 9, 1901.

under his hereditary jurisdiction as his own. He always made a point of regarding the land, crops, stock, &c., as belonging to the people; and drew a careful distinction between his own private property and farms at Aaghin and the rest of the land. This is very different from the attitude of the Kurdish Beys of Bohtan whom I afterwards met; with them everything, human or otherwise, is "my" so long as it is within the country of their own tribe.

The Vali insists on Muti'ulla Bey becoming Mudir of the Nahie, now that Mükûs has ceased to be a Caza, but the latter is unwilling to have this greatness thrust upon him. He says that he can do no good in this country, and that he must travel and learn something. The following characteristic occurrence happened while I was there:—A peremptory telegram came from the Vali demanding the immediate payment of 8,000 piastres. At the time, the harvest was being gathered, threshing was in progress, and there was no money in the Treasury, nor in the district. To avoid trouble, and possible hardship to the people, Muti'ulla Bey advanced 5,000 piastres of his private money, and so made up and dispatched the sum.

From Mükûs I went south, and crossing the Bohtan just above the point where the Mükûs Chai joins it, reached Khasker, a town of 200 houses. It is inhabited by two tribes of Bohtan Kurds, the Adian and the Mallashekir, who live in a state of armed neutrality towards each other. About twenty of the houses are Armenian. There is a permanent garrison of half a company of Nizamieh infantry, under a Mulazim, supplied by one of the regiments at Bitlis, and while I was there a like force was stationed there temporarily, in addition, for the annual operations of tax-collecting.

Thence I went to Ero, the old cassaba of that name. It is a dilapidated village of about eighty houses. The old Government buildings have been allowed to fall to pieces. From Ero to Deh, the present cassaba, is about six hours, during which two ranges have to be crossed. The road is so bad in places as to be almost impossible even for pack animals, and we were much delayed by falls. Deh is a substantial village of about two hundred houses, with a few shops. Good fruit is grown round it, but the surroundings, on the whole, are arid and depressing. It is subject to frequent dust-storms. The population, with the exception of the Turkish officials and garrison, is entirely Armenian. There are no Armenians in the neighbouring villages, or anywhere else in this part of the country, and it is rather strange to find the chief town of the Caza inhabited entirely by them. The reason is that they are only safe from the Kurds by having their whole community at the seat of Government. However, their lot is not a very enviable one even here, and nowhere else did I see the Turks openly overbearing and suspicious towards them. My camp was well watched by zaptiehs, police, &c., and no Christians were allowed near it. Even wood, water, &c., were always brought under escort. During my second visit I had occasion to send into the town for a blacksmith to come to my camp, which he did, apparently without being noticed, for shortly afterwards a policeman came, wanted to know what he had come there for, and tried to take him away. During the massacres the Armenian school had been destroyed. It was re-built last year. The other day an Alai Bey came from Bitlis, had it all pulled down and dug up from the foundations. This occurred in the interval between my two visits. I was also told that the Murakhas (head of the Armenian community) was turned out of his house and beaten by the police. The people seemed to feel this very much, averring that the Murakhas, who is, of course, a priest, should be treated with, at least, outward respect. The Turks, on their part, say that the Dehlis are a particularly bad lot, and without respect. These Armenians speak only Kurdish, and, both in appearance and attire, are exactly like Kurds.

Both at Khasker and Deh the Kaïmakams were away on tax-collecting duty, and at the latter place the troops also were away, having gone to take part in escorting Mustafa Pasha and his nomads.

The authorities were very unwilling for me to go direct from here to Shernakh, as the Miran were said to be now in possession of the road. They said they could not guarantee the safety of my caravan, nor give me an adequate escort. I therefore followed the course of the Zorawa River till it joins the Bohtan, and so reached the Tigris. Nearly all this district is inhabited by ra'ya Kurds—quiet agriculturists, striving to make both ends meet in the face of heavy Government requisitions. There are a few Chaldean villages, and some occupied equally by Kurds and Chaldeans. I followed the left bank of the Tigris towards Jezire. The river was exceptionally low, and there was very little traffic to be seen on it, and none on the banks. At Chellek is a ferry, and here are collected bundles of wood and corn for shipment to Mosul and Bagdad, but business seemed to be very slack, and there was absolutely nothing doing—not even a crossing made—during the afternoon and evening I spent there.

By leaving the road at Fenduk one can reach a narrow and fertile valley, enclosed by precipitous rocks, from the north end of which comes a magnificent water-supply. There is a picturesque village here—Benatt—with fine vineyards and well-irrigated fields below it. In the cliffs at the back of the village is a very large and complete system of rock-cut chambers—the finest I have seen—with perfect inter-communication by means of stairs, also cut in the rock. To get into or out of this valley and rejoin the road is a matter of considerable difficulty.

There is a small ferry at Finik, by which I crossed, and so entered Jezire-ibn-Omar, on the right bank of the river. This is a pretty considerable town of about 1,200 houses and a bazaar. It is the seat of a Kaïmakam under the Vali of Diarbekir.

The Government buildings are situated in the remains of a fine stone fort or castle, which they tell me was that of Bedr Khan Bey. There are two or three good new buildings of stone. One, a Hamidie barracks, built by Mustafa Pasha, out of mosques which he pulled down for the purpose. Another his own house. Another, that of a rich Mussulman inhabitant, likewise built by pulling down other people's property. There is a very good new bazaar, built of stone, well roofed, with straight, fairly wide streets, and rows of new shops, the fronts of which are closed with substantial wooden shutters, but it has never been used or opened. It is the property of Mustafa Pasha, and is built on the site of a monastery, which he pulled down, using the materials to make this. In Jezire there is a branch of the French Dominican Mission from Mozul. The priest informed me that the Christians of the neighbourhood are practically in a state of slavery, but, as far as I could judge, this applied equally to the Kurds, and every one else within Mustafa Pasha's domain.

Jezire is built on the right bank of the Tigris, and during the spring floods becomes an island, as then a dry channel behind it fills. The bridge over this channel is now broken, and there has been no attempt to repair it—the fatal influences which prevent the undertaking of public works or repairs in Bohtan extending apparently as far south as this—in fact, to wherever the blight of the Hamidie nomads extends. Connection with the left bank is by means of a pontoon bridge. To allow rafts to pass down, it is unmoored at the end next the left bank, and the current swings it wide enough to allow room for the rafts to pass. When I reached Jezire, the Miran were daily expected, so I could not go to Shernakh by the best and shortest road (the only practical one, as I afterwards discovered), viz., that by Mansurieh, the pass known as the Kesr Boghazi or Istoshker, and Dergule. So, after crossing the bridge, I went to Shakh, whence another road used to lead to Shernakh by the Pir-i-Ghelli. Shakh is a very pleasantly situated village, on cliffs high above the Nordush River. It is half Christian and half Ra'ya Kurd. There are here the remains of a large stone house, which used to belong to the Agha, Mehemmed Bey, one of the victims of Mustafa Pasha's scheming, Government having turned him out and destroyed his property. The Christians are Nestorian, followers of Mar Shimun, and there is an old priest here who was educated in their school at Urmi. The church has been sacked, and its books and vestments destroyed. There still remain a number of illuminated Assyrian texts and rolls, in fragments, and much the worse for damp, neglect, and exposure to the climate.

The road from Shakh to Shernakh has been rendered impassable by the storms of last winter, and, as explained further on, no attempt has been made to repair it. I therefore had to find another way round, by Hassana, and over the Judi Dagh.

Hassana is interesting from the fact that it has recently been re-colonized. The inhabitants are all Nestorian by nationality, but of the forty houses now rebuilt and occupied, twenty belong to Protestants, this having been one of the villages reached by the American mission at Urmi through its schools there and at Mardin. The Protestant and Nestorian churches have both been rebuilt. The people seem to have settled to their old life very comfortably, and, as there is plenty of water, the crops and fruit are doing well, in spite of three years' neglect.

The pass of the Judi Dagh, leading from here to Shernakh, is a very long and difficult one, and I lost two of my baggage animals on this march. On arrival at Shernakh on the 14th September, I learned that Mustafa Pasha had been killed that day. I have since heard, and the Turkish authorities say, that Abdurrahman Agha, Chief of the Shernakhli, killed him with his own hand. This is not the case. Abdurrahman Agha told me he was not present at the fight himself; and he was certainly in his house, and received me there on my arrival at about 7.30 P.M. He then told me that the news had just been brought in. If he had been out himself, I should certainly have heard of it during my stay in Shernakh. At Shernakh I found Karavan Agha, Chief of a section of the Tayanli and Azir Agha, a Chief of the Salopi Ashiret, with their followers, and some Kuchanli. These were all allies—for the time—of the Shernakhli, with whom they had formed an

alliance against Mustafa Pasha, and had evidently come to Shernakh to assist at this juncture.

Abdurrahman Agha told me that Mustafa Pasha was such a bad man, and had done so much harm to the country, that they regarded him as an enemy of the human race, and had determined to kill him. He laid stress on the fact that the Shernakhli had not gone out to fight against the Miran; but with the sole purpose of ridding the land of Mustafa Pasha. This statement must be taken *cum grano*, for to go and attack his tribe is not the way to kill one man, and it was only a piece of luck that brought Mustafa Pasha out from among his host, so as to enable him to be killed. Also, in spite of Abdurrahman Agha's asseveration that they did not make war on the tribe, they killed or wounded nineteen of the Miran in the fray. Some time before I reached Shernakh, I had heard that there would b fighting. One account said that Mustafa Pasha had been in the habit of paying an annual tribute to the Shernakhli for the privilege of using this portion of the road which runs through what they consider to be their country. This year he apparently felt himself strong enough (especially as he had arranged for an escort of two battalions of regular troops) to refuse this payment, and pass by force. Whereupon Abdurrahman Agha informed him that his nomads had better go by Sairt, and not come that way, or there would be trouble. However, Abdurrahman Agha denied to me this tale of the yearly tribute. Another account is that fighting of a desultory nature takes place here every year, the Shernakhli considering it a point of honour not to let the Miran pass through their country without this protest. I think this fight was nothing unusual, but has been magnified this year by the fact that Mustafa Pasha happened to get killed. The common rumour among the Shernakhli was that one of Mustafa Pasha's own men actually did the deed, which is a reasonable supposition, as he was known to have made bitter enemies, even among his own followers.

While in Abdurrahman Agha's house, my dragoman, Mr. Shordone, had his pistol stolen, and though Abdurrahman Agha pretended to be very much put out about it, and said he would make good the loss, he eventually refused to pay the price of the pistol or give any kind of compensation. He finally offered two mules, which I was constrained to accept, having lost two of my baggage animals in getting here. However, on the morning of my departure the mules were not forthcoming; and if it had not been for the timely help of the Agha-i-Sor, who supplied me with two of his own mules, I should have had some difficulty in proceeding on my journey. I have reported the loss of the pistol to the Vali of Bitlis, and demanded 10 liras as compensation, telling him that Abdurrahman Agha is responsible for it.

I had intended to go from Shernakh to Dergule, where it would have been very interesting to see the Miran and their allied tribes on the march, but the Shernakh Aghas were very loth for me to do so, declaring that, if I went, they would have to send an escort of 200 men with me. There was, naturally, high feeling among the Miran after the previous fighting, and on the morning of the 16th, when I had intended going, news was brought in that nine Kuchanli, who had been down the night before to rob, had been caught by the Miran and had their throats cut. As there might have been trouble if I had gone, and knowing your Excellency's wish that I should keep clear of possible complications, I did not feel justified in persisting. Still I doubt if the Miran would have interfered with a European, and it was a good opportunity missed of seeing a large force of nomad tribes on the march and of viewing the best road to Jezire.

From Shernakh I went to Deh by Mamiran, passing the spot where the fight took place, in the gorge of the Rohsur Su. At Mamiran I left my caravan, and went on foot to visit the districts of Buqat and Bengof, and the Kever Nabie. This was a very interesting trip, but I found the paths quite impracticable for animals, and was glad I had not brought my caravan with me. Buqat is a basin surrounded by steep hills. It contains eight villages, is well watered, and fertile. There are magnificent walnut-trees, and good grapes and figs. In the lower-lying tracts, rice is the staple crop. The inhabitants are all ra'ya Kurds, who suffer somewhat from nomads. There is a famous spring here which gushes out from the rocky face of one of the perpendicular cliffs, inclosing the Buqat plateau on the north, and then forms the Buqat or Beyaz Su, which waters the district; and an elaborate system of water-cuts and irrigation canals are led from this source to the higher-lying lands.

From Deh I returned to Khasker by another route, avoiding Ero; and from Khasker I proceeded roughly along the left bank of the Bohtan to Heshatt, where I re-entered the Vilayet of Van, and returned through Shatakh. Near Heshatt I joined the "jada," or "Miran Yolu," i.e., the road used by the kocher for their migrations. If it had not been for my wish to see Buqat and Kever, I might have come by this road direct from Mamiran, thus avoiding a second visit to Deh and Khasker. Beyond Heshatt the road is extremely

bad, and would be quite impassable if it had not been buttressed and built up in places with stones by Mustafa Pasha to enable his flocks and horses to pass. As it is, it is only with great difficulty that loaded animals can get over the pass above the Bohtan River, where it makes its sharp turn to the west. At Shattakh I was hospitably received by the Kaïmakam, Reshid Bey.

There are some good houses here, a very good new "Hukumat," and a good bridge across the river—all built by Lutfi Bey during his term of office here. From Shattakh to Van one has the advantage of a good road, the first I had been on since leaving Van a month before. This also was built entirely by Lutfi Bey. Now carriages do the distance between Van and Shattakh in one day. The road on the other side of Shattakh is as bad and dangerous as anything in Bohtan—it took me an hour to get my caravan across a small portion (about 100 yards) of it. Had Lutfi Bey remained, he would have continued the Van–Shattakh road to the boundary of the vilayet near Heshatt.

I noticed the order and tranquillity that reigns in this Caza. Formerly the Kurds and Armenians here, in their almost inaccessible villages, perched high in the mountains, were great brigands, and no one attempted to deal with them. However, Lutfi Bey altered all this, assisted by a very good Zaptieh officer, Halil Effendi, who is still there.* He has effected some notable captures, and is much feared and disliked by the Kurds all round. His zeal has also made him enemies at Van, who are continually trying to get him into trouble.

The Country of Bohtan.

Bohtan is the intricate mass of hills lying between the Rivers Bohtan and Tigris, and rising on the south and east to the mountain ranges of the Hakkur Dagh and Judi Dagh.

Cazas.—Practically the whole of Bohtan is comprised in the Bewar and Ero Cazas of the Sanjaq of Sairt of the Vilayet of Bitlis. Khasker is the Cassaba of Bewar. The Kaïmakam, Mahmud Jawat Bey, a Stambuli, is an educated and intelligent man. This is a very small Caza, containing 280 villages, many of which consist of only two or three houses. The Caza extends along the left bank of the Bohtan River, and comprises the strip of open hills and plateaus immediately south of the river. The soil is very fertile, producing two crops in the year off the same land—the first of wheat, the second of a kind of maize. The hill-sides are covered with terraced fields, gardens, and orchards of figs and pomegranates, and vineyards. The two Kurdish tribes of this Caza are the Adian and Mallishekir—both sedentary for the most part, and of the old Bohtan stock. They are kept well under by the Government.

The Caza of Ero, of which the Cassaba is Deh, comprises all Bohtan proper, a country of hills covered with oak forest, and divided by innumerable valleys and ravines, through which mountain streams rush to join one or other of the two large rivers. It is with this Caza alone that I mostly have to deal. It is a very extended one, and is divided into fifteen nahies, but has the proportionately small number of 380 villages, and I believe, having regard to the events of the past few years, that even this number is above the mark. The Acting Kaïmakam at Deh is Muhammad Nuri Bey.

The country is well wooded and well watered. The soil of the valleys is fertile, and produces rice, wheat, barley, rye, hemp, melons, and vines. Walnuts, figs, and pomegranates are also abundant. There is a large industry in oak-apples, which are used in the manufacture of a dye. It is sad to see a country, favoured by nature as this is, so under-populated, undeveloped, and in a state of stagnation.

Reasons for Backward State of Country.—The primary reason for this is misgovernment, or rather complete want of government. The second is the absence of roads and communications. This is due to the lack of government and of security, as I shall presently show. The third reason, also dependent on the first, is that through Bohtan lie the paths of the various nomad tribes on their way between their summer quarters in the mountains and their winter quarters in the wide plains bordering on the Tigris. These nomads are the curse of the country, devouring everything *en route* like locusts, pillaging the settled population, burning the forests, and generally leaving a track of desolation behind them. The settled population complain bitterly, but can get no redress or help from Government, and the nomads, who are mostly Hamidie tribes, go unchecked and unpunished. The roads they use are now like wildernesses, marked by ruined villages and homesteads, and relieved by no sign of human life or activity, for it is folly to live close to a path frequented

* Major Maunsell, No. 37, August 27, 1899; ditto, No. 40, September 16, 1900.

by these wandering tribes. The Kurdish Ashirets of Bohtan, such as the Shernakhli recognize the harm being done to the country in general, deplore the ruined villages and depopulated districts, and combine with the Ra'yas in asking why Government can do nothing.

Traces of a Former Civilization.—There are interesting traces of an old civilization in Bohtan; the remains of well-built bridges of massive stones, of houses built of stone blocks of such size that the Kurds say they were built by demons, for it is impossible for men to have manipulated such large pieces; and about five hours south-east from Shernakh I was shown a collection of mounds, tumuli, and stones lying in a certain arrangement, which was evidently once a town, or collection of dwellings, of some size, and built on a regular plan. The people who now occupy the country cannot make roads or bridges, nor in any way utilize its resources.

Steady Deterioration of Country.—That the state of the country, so far from improving, is worse now than it was ten years ago, admits of no doubt. The Christian population has diminished enormously. Villages shown as Christian in the War Office Route Book of 1893 are now entirely Kurd; the large village of Fenduk, on the Jezire road, is a notable instance. Many Kurd villages I came to were admitted to me to have been Christian a few years ago. Other villages, mentioned in the above book as inhabited, are now merely ruins, and the villages destroyed of late years by nomads include both Kurd and Christian ones.

Roads.—As regards the want of roads and the stagnation resulting therefrom, I have already mentioned the difficulties with which I often had to contend in getting my caravan along at all. These also are worse than they were. At best the roads are merely paths cleared over the hills, through the forests of scrub oak, and boulders, taking the line of least resistance, wherever there was least to be done in the way of clearing and contriving. Now they are left to the destructive action of storms, rain, &c., and no attempts are made at repair or keeping them in order. Thus, bad places become worse, and worse places impassable, when the expenditure of a little energy at the time would have sufficed to keep them open. However, there is so little traffic or *va-et-vient*, that no one considers it worth while to exert themselves (the exceptions being the "jadas," which the "kochers" keep passable for their own use). Indeed, it is amusing to find that roads in this country are not looked upon as unmixed blessings, and the inhabitants may even welcome the destruction of one, as the following instance testifies:—From Shakh I wished to go to Shernakh by the Pir-i-Ghelli, a route mentioned as practicable in the route book, but I found it had been finally rendered impassable by the storms of last winter, after getting worse and worse for years previously. I asked the villagers why they had allowed it to get into this state, and why they did not repair it. Their reply was that the loss of a means of communication, which, after all, they had not much use for, was as nothing compared to the gain that henceforth no "kochers" will be able to come that way

Attitude of Aghas.—There are signs that some of the Aghas are waking up to the lamentable state of things, and have come to the conclusion that by killing or driving out the Christians, and oppressing the Ra'yas, they suffer indirectly from the general harm done to the country. Many of them deplore the ruined villages and wasted lands, for which they blame both Mustafa Pasha and the Government.

Experiment in Re-colonization.—An experiment in re-colonization has lately been carried out by the Shernakh Agha. The Christian village of Hassana, after having been several times plundered, was finally sacked three years ago by the Tayanli nomads, and destroyed. Such of its inhabitants as were not killed fled to Sairt, Jezire, and other towns. Last spring, Abdurrahman Agha had them collected, and induced them to return by the promise of his protection in future. Now, about half the houses are rebuilt, and the others will only be rebuilt as their owners gradually return. The good intentions of the Shernakh Agha I do not doubt; and the Shernakhli, a very powerful and influential tribe, claim this tract as within their sphere. Still, Hassana is about ten hours from Shernakh, from which it is separated by the Indi Dagh, so that they would find it difficult to give any actual help to the villagers of Hassana in case the latter were again attacked. Certainly, their former oppressors are now temporarily allied to the Shernakhli; but there is no guarantee that this will last.

If Government chose, it could easily improve matters in Bohtan by crushing or controlling the noxious nomad Chiefs. That it is well able to do so it has shown in former years, but a reversal of its present Hamidie policy, and that of protecting, nay encouraging, organized brigandage, would be necessary.

Population.

Though it is impossible to deal with this subject, or to give a list of tribes, without including the various nomads who have so large an influence on the country, I do not consider them a part of the people of Bohtan.

By far the larger portion of the latter may be divided into two distinct sections, both Kurd. The first, the Ra'yas, and the second, the Ashirets.

Ra'ya Kurds.—Taking the Ra'ya Kurds, who form the bulk of the peasantry and agriculturists of the country, first: they are nearly all of old "Bohtan" Ashiret stock, who have been brought well under control by Government, after Bedr Khan Bey's defeat, when his Ashiret disappeared, as such.

The "Bohtan" Kurds extend over the north side of the river also, and the name "Bohtan" seems to be very widely given and very loosely applied. They are sedentary cultivators rather than pastoral, as the nomads are, and, as a rule, pay taxes and give soldiers, though this is by no means always the case, and varies according to localities. Their tribal organization is not very distinct, and in many cases they are simply known by the name of the nahie in which the live, or by that of the Aghas' village. The Aghas have not the same power or influence among them as they have in the ashirets; and the tendency is to revert to government by villages under a Headman or Mukhtar. For these reasons, statistics dividing them into families under Aghas, giving the number of houses or rifles in each family, &c., are difficult to compile and not to be relied on. The Osmanli Government has entirely broken the once powerful and turbulent Bohtan clan, but, unfortunately, in creating Hamidie out of the nomad tribes, it has allowed these latter to become strong by supplying them with Martinis and allowing them to rob and plunder. Now, the Bohtan Ra'yas are as much oppressed by the kochers as are the few Christians who remain. The Ra'yas complain of excessive taxation and say they get nothing for it—no protection—and Government takes no notice of their grievances. They regret the days of Sultan Abdul Aziz, when, they say, a man could walk about with gold on his head without fear of being robbed. There is still a glimmer of national spirit among them, and a strong anti-Governmental feeling. At Heshatt, the old Agha asked me anxiously if I had met any of Bedr Khan Bey's sons in Constantinople, and said he was waiting for orders. I gathered that one of them, Osman Pasha, occasionally corresponds with him and is engaged in some quite futile intrigue.

Ashirets.—The most typical of these are the Shernakhli, the largest and most powerful tribe in Bohtan. They are of the Haji Bahram family, and their Agha is nominally the head of it. Still, some of the tribes of this family are at enmity with them, while they have allies among the tribes of other families, and as these inter-tribal relations are continually changing, it is difficult to say that such and such a tribe is under the domination of the Shernak. Their Agha appears to control a coalition similar to that controlled by the late Mustafa Pasha, and varying according to circumstances.

The Shernakhli are not nomad in the true sense of the word, though more than half of them leave their villages in summer, and go into summer quarters in the hills within their own country. They have the reputation of being good fighters, and are semi-independent, giving no soldiers, and being much left alone by Government. They also have the reputation of treating their Christians well, and of looking after them (the re-colonization of Hassana being a case in point). Like all the Kurds I came across, they profess the greatest contempt for the Osmanli soldiers, but at the same time are in terror lest the Government should send troops into their country, and are very much wondering what the upshot of this business with Mustafa Pasha will be. Though their country is rather out of the way and lies away from any frequented road through Bohtan, and is very difficult of access on three sides, yet it is quite open towards Dergule, and if an expedition were sent against them, it would find no natural obstacles of any great difficulty to an advance on Shernakh from Dergule. And I am convinced that in this case the tribe would make no resistance.

They hold the Government in wholesome awe, though, like every one else, they complain that it does not interfere enough, and does nothing to preserve the country against the ravages of the Hamidie and the devastation of the nomads.

They have had the advantage of being ruled by fairly enlightened and just Chiefs.

The late Agha-i-Sor was one of these. He had two sons, the late Muhammad Agha, who succeeded him as Chief of the tribe, and the present Agha-i-Sor, both good men. Muhammad Agha died last winter, and was succeeded as Chief by his son,

Abdurrahman Agha, a young man who did not impress me very favourably. The present Agha-i-Sor, his uncle, though a very good man, has not much influence or authority.

There is a very general impression, though quite erroneous, as I have shown, that "Agha-i-Sor" is a general name for the Chief of the Shernakhli; and it should be impressed on the Turkish authorities, in case they contemplate punitive measures against the tribe, that the present Agha-i-Sor is in no way responsible for the attack which resulted in the death of Mustafa Pasha.

The Shernakhli say that Shernakh is a corruption of "Shahr-i-Nu" (City of Noah), and is so called because of its propinquity to the Judi Dagh, on a point of the ridge of which, according to Kurdish tradition, the ark rested. They claim that the Judi Dagh is in their country—its northern slopes certainly are, but none of the tribe are to be found beyond the range.

The Batwan, the next largest and most powerful of the tribes of Bohtan proper, are really nomad, and go to summer quarters north of the river. They winter in the plain below Shernakh, infest the country as far as Nit and Bugat; and Dergule (formerly Bedr Khan Bey's usual residence) is their principal village. They are of the Shilfet family, and, like the other nomads, have a bad reputation.

All the other Bohtan ashirets are sedentary.

Most of them give soldiers, who generally desert on the first opportunity. (This is also common among the ra'ya Kurds, and the country is full of deserters and other refugees from justice, whom, it appears, Government make no attempt to apprehend in Bohtan.)

It is not easy to define the limits of each tribe, their villages often commingling, and being apparently sometimes claimed by one Agha, sometimes by another, according to whoever is strongest at the time.

A case in point is the large village of Fenduk, now occupied by Kurds of the Zilan Ashiret, but claimed by the Agha of the Harkna. It is nearer to his country, and the Zilan are powerless to resist his claim.

Christians.—These are of all nations and denominations. The Armenians are confined to towns like Deh, where they number the whole of the inhabitants; and Shernakh, Khasker, Jezire, &c., where there are settlements of them.

The bulk of the Christian peasants scattered through Bohtan are Chaldeans. There are five villages of them in the Bewar Caza; and, in the Ero Caza, they are most plentiful in the Kelhuk Nahie along the banks of the Zorawa Chai, west of Deh. Here there are villages entirely Christian, and some half Christian and half Kurd. Here every Chaldean settlement had, as a rule, its own church and priest, and the two peoples appeared to live on good terms. It did not strike me that the Christians were unduly oppressed, though they are obviously in a subordinate position, and treated somewhat *de haut en bas*. North of the Tigris, below Jezire, and on the southern side of the Judi Dagh, the Christians are mostly Nestorian.

State of Christian Population.—Though the Christian population among the Ashirets of Bohtan may be said, without undue exaggeration, to be in a state of serfdom, inasmuch as they have no rights, and their lives and property are absolutely at the disposal of their Kurdish Aghas, yet I saw no ill-treatment, nor anything to lead me to suppose that an actual state of slavery exists. But I was assured by Christians that it does, and that the Guyan, a tribe of the Haji Bahram family, in the regions of the Halakur Dagh, east of Shernakh, and kin to the Shernakhli, buy and sell their Christians like cattle. These Guyan have a bad reputation.

As I have before pointed out, most of the Christians have found it best to leave the country, and the lot of those who remain is not an enviable one, though they often appear happy enough, and seem to dislike the Government far more than they do the Kurds. Their well-being depends very much on the character of the Agha to whom they belong. Such different men as Muti'ullh Bey of Mükûs and the Agha-i-Sor, in conversation with me, said that the Kurdish people bore no particular enmity towards the Christians, but that the Aghas were responsible for their oppression, and that Government had set the example by showing them, during the time of the massacres and since, an easy way to become rich by simply taking everything they wanted from the Christians.

I was amused one day to hear some Chaldeans regretting the "good old days" of Bedr Khan Bey! I said to them: "Surely, he massacred the Christians?" "Oh yes," they replied, "but it was nothing to what has been going on these last ten years; we are now being slowly exterminated."

I tried to find out how the Christians of Bohtan regarded Mustafa Pasha's death, and

how they thought it would affect them. They did not display much interest nor draw any hopeful conclusions from the event. "Musto is dead—now there will be many Mustos," was the usual comment.

I could find no confirmation of the Christians in Bohtan being polygamous, as I had been told they were.

Mustafa Pasha.

No account of Bohtan would be complete without a special mention of the late Mustafa Pasha, who for the last ten years has been the most prominent figure in these parts, and who has done more than any one else to bring the country to its present state, while his career and rise afford an instructive commentary on the methods of the Ottoman Government.

When I reached Jezire I found the whole town groaning under his tyranny. The people said, "There is no Government here; Mustafa Pasha is the Government, and like a King." He appears to have oppressed Mussulman and Christian with impartiality, and to have considered nothing but how to enrich himself. If one had not seen the place, and marked the ruins of villages in the country round, and heard the inhabitants, one could not have believed that a man could have been allowed to tyrannize over and oppress all and sundry for so long without coming to grief. He can only have done so in the full knowledge of a strong protection, and that he would not be called to account for his misdeeds.

Mustafa Pasha's career is a strange one, and an example of how an unscrupulous and ambitious man, with more brain than that possessed by the average of those surrounding him, can rise to power and wealth from a comparatively small beginning. His tribe, the Miran, was one of the many small tribes under the suzerainty of Bedr Khan Bey. On the fall of that potentate his own tribe was crushed and reduced to a state of "ra'ya" by the Government, while its subject tribes became disintegrated. Mustafa Pasha began, by slow degrees, to step into his master's shoes by gradually extending the influence of his own tribe by swallowing up his neighbours. His usual plan, having first got into the good graces of Government, was to lay false information against a rival Chief, and induce Government to send troops against him. Having thus induced Government to treat his rival as it had done Bedr Khan Bey, viz., to burn his house, destroy his property, remove him and his family to Constantinople, or some other distant place, Mustafa Pasha took what was left, and assumed the Chieftainship of the remnant of the punished tribe.

Mehmed Bey, Agha of Shakh, is an example of this. The Miran thus became a powerful tribe, and Mustafa Pasha a man of note in the country. When the Hamidie system was introduced he was made a Mir Alai and a Pasha, the practical head of three regiments of his own and subordinate tribes.

Being now a Government official, and having the rifles and equipments of his Hamidie at his disposal, he became the most powerful man in the country side. He also became a friend and protégé of the Mushir, Zekki Pasha, under whose ægis he proceeded to enrich himself by overt acts of indiscriminate spoliation. Up to the time of the massacres, and for some time after their commencement, he had protected the Christians, allowing them to pay him well for doing so. He was even then powerful enough in Jezire to be able to do this. His object was to get a decoration and some recognition from the European Powers for being a long-headed man; he was under no delusions as to the position and relative power of the Ottoman Empire, and has always endeavoured to stand well with Europeans.

Disappointed of his decoration, and realizing that he had espoused an unprofitable cause, he went to the other extreme and set the example of robbing the Christians of all he had left them, of filling his harem with their women, destroying their villages, and pillaging their convents and churches. From that day he has been the chief of their persecutors in Bohtan. As he increased in wealth and power, he became more tyrannical and autocratic, and included Mussulmen as well in his exactions. He is reported to have destroyed fifteen mosques to supply himself with building material. He amassed great wealth, and his tribe, in their periodical migrations, looted the cattle, sheep, and horses of all who were not strong enough to resist. Thus he could pay handsomely for Zekki Pasha's countenance and keep the Government contentedly unobservant by paying a very large sheep tax.

A common comment on his death which I heard in Bohtan, and also here in Van, is: "Now the Mushir will be the poorer by £ T. 1,000 a-year." Many estimates put it as high as £ T 2,000.

In a conversation I had with a Government official at Deh, I expressed my surprise that Government should actually send troops to escort this man through the country he was known to be ruining. The official replied that they had to protect him, because the large taxes he paid on his property in horses, sheep, &c., was their chief source of revenue.

Another official told me that Government had made Mustafa Pasha, but had let him get so powerful that now he was stronger than the Government.

I found everyone was tired of him, and it was commonly said that he had estranged even his own family, and had enemies among his own tribe. Several Kurdish Aghas described him to me as a man of no religion and no race, caring for none but himself, and that no one could feel safe while he was alive. In fact, I did not find a single person to say a good word for him.

I have the honour to inclose—

1. A list of tribes of Bohtan;
2. A list of the natives of Ero Caza.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. E. TYRRELL, *Captain.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 141.

List of Tribes.

BOHTAN.

Name of Tribe.	Remarks, Habitat, &c.	Aghas.	Estimated Number of Fighting Men.	Villages, &c.
	Bewar Caza.			
1. Adian ..	Mahmud Agha lives in Khasker, his Kabyle sedentary .. Timur Agha lives north of Bohtan River, his Kabyle nomad ..	Mahmud .. .. Timur	1,400	Khasker, Zigzig, Rashan, Verlas, Makhés.
2. Malla Shekir ..	Mingled with the Adian, south of Bohtan River	Mehmed	1,000	Khasker, Khlinliq, Gyop, Dora Verass.
	The above two tribes are both of old "Bohtan" stock.			
3. Garisan ..	Sixty houses sedentary, thirty nomad, in valleys east of Ero. Of same stock as the Mirun, but now at enmity with them ..	Shahin .. .. Musa	500	Chilli Jam, Kerkor, Gevzin, Erikend, Kochannis, Dilia, Hat, Geler, Besha.
	Ero Caza.			
4. Shernakh .. (Haji Bahram family.)	Their country is north of the Indi Dagh, between Dergule and Hekkiari, but they have villages, such as Habla and Hossāna, towards Jezire. Sedentary	Abdurrahman	3,000	
5. Berwari ..	Live in scattered villages among the Shernakhli, to whom they are subordinate	.. ..	100	Birian.
6. Guyan ..	East of Shernakh are geographically a Hekkiari tribe, not Bohtan. They are very independent and democratic, and have many small Aghas, but no principal ones. They have a Christian population among them	.. ..	1,000	About twenty villages altogether. Shié, Alto, Baziān, Bezo, Sinat Obelo, Hoz, Helal.
7. Salopi ..	South of the Indi Dagh, and some in Diarbekir Vilayet. Sedentary. They have a Chaldean fellah population	Osman .. .. (Azir is a subordinate Agha)	200	Girik.
8. Hameri ..	Are Yezidis. Nomad, under Mustafa Pasha. In Salopi country..	Ibrahim	..	
9. Zewiki ..	Nomad, under Mustafa Pasha	Ismail	200	
10. Hajan ..	Nomad	.. ..	200	
11. Hatwan .. (Shillet family.)	Nomad. Winter round Dergule. Two hostile sections under	Mehmed i Neste .. Yusaf i Timur	1,000	Dergule, Jimalt, Deran, Ekrim, Birt.
12. Tayan ..	One Kabyle under Reshid Agha are under Mustafa Pasha. One Kabyle under Karavan Agha are against him. Both nomad; thieves	Reshid Agha .. .. Karavan Agha	200	Winter in Salopi country and round Jezire.
13. Kuchan ..	Against Mustafa Pasha	Umar Agha	250	
14. Herikan ..	Under Mustafa Pasha	.. ..	150	
15. Musarenham			200	
16. Rashikan ..	Said to be merely a small band of robbers	.. .. ..	50	
17. Shovan	West of Ero Ashiret, in Kelhuh and Shovan nahies, and extend west from Deh along Zorawa Chai	Reshid	800	Barashan, Bakhina, Ginyanis, Bileris, Kelhuh, Kanikan, Parés, Mullfra, Kalan Der.
18. Ero	Mostly in Ero nahie	Mehmed, son of Ali Ahmed	1,000	Ero, Mirg, Abu Bekr, Jirishik, Chaura, Medresse.
19. Zilan	South of Bohtan River and in bend of Bohtan and Tigris. Two Zilan nahies	Muhammad i Rasūb ..	800	Girashil, Fenduh, Lopus, Motit Gozūb, Beled, Tilleh.
20. Haruns	North and East of Tigris: In Finik nahie .. .. .. In Harūna nahie .. .. In Balie nahie of Diarbekir ..	Ahmed Agha .. .. Sullinan i Farho .. Musa i Daoshu	1,500	Basān, Chelleh, Beravāna, Hetma, Fenduh (claimed by Salih i Farho; inhabited by Zilan), Finik, Saidia, Benatt, Sharihan.
21. Dersho	In mountainous country west of Dergule	Umar Agha	1,500	Dersho.
22. Zevniki Haji Ulyan..	West of Dersho	Mahammad i Jan ..	1,000	Zevnik.

Name of Tribe.	Remarks, Habitat, &c.	Estimated Number of Fighting Men.	Villages, &c.
	Nomads who do not really belong to Bohtan.		
23. Mirau ..	N.-e a large tribe in themselves, but allied with them, and under Mustafa Pasha, were the Mamreshan (15), a Kabyle of the Tagauli (12), Herikan (14), Hilkaty Kuchan (13), Nikan (21), a Kabyle of the Dudheran (25), the whole forming a powerful confederacy, sometimes lumped together as "Mirau," and all contributing towards the same three regiments of Hamidie	(Late) Mustafa Pasha ..	
	Zozâns in Van Vilayet (under Mustafa Pasha)	Mosko. Umar Agha.	
24. Dudheri ..			In Van Vilayet.
25. Alliân ..			
26. Hartoshi ..	A very large and powerful tribe, with numerous sub-divisions and smaller tribes connected with them. Practically not concerned with Bohtan, except that one Kabyle, that of Haji Bey, passes through the east side of the Shemakh country in its migrations	Shakir Agha .. Hassan Bey .. Haji Bey.	

Note.—The tribes of the Haji Bahrani family are not of old "Bohtan." Ashiret stock, and say they were never tributary to Bedr Khan Bey.

All the Shilfi family are "Bohtan" Kurds, as are Nos. 1, 2, 17–22.

(Signed) G. E. TYRRELL,
His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van.

Inclosure 3 in No. 141.

List of Nahies of the Caza of Ero, or Erouh.

Ero.	Buqat (eight villages).	Karan.
Kelhuk.	Batwan.	Zilan i Zaghir.
Kever (eight villages).	Shemakh.	Zilan i Kebir.
Shevan.	Haji Ulyan.	Haruna.
Kinesha.	Dershe.	Finik.

(Signed) G. E. TYRRELL, *Captain.*

No. 142.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 485.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 4, 1902.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a despatch received from His Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout, reporting the arrival of Muzaffer Pasha, the new Governor-General of the Lebanon, and transmitting a copy of a speech made by his Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 142.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 128.)
Sir, *Beyrout, October 16, 1902.*

I HAVE the honour to report that Muzaffer Pasha arrived here on Tuesday, the 14th instant, by Russian steamer.

A large number of officials and others from the Lebanon assembled at the landing place or prepared to proceed on board to greet the new Governor-General, but the latter refused all demonstrations. He was received on landing by the Vali of Beyrout and by Naoum Pasha, and drove at once to the Serai, where the principal Lebanon officials were presented to him. I understand that the Vali had invited Muzaffer Pasha to be his guest, but, preferring to be independent, he had reserved rooms at the leading hotel of Beyrout.

Yesterday, the 15th, his Excellency received and returned the visits of the Consular Body, and he has fixed the reading of the Firman of appointment for this afternoon, when the Consulates-General of the six Signatory Powers will be represented by their Dragomans in accordance with precedent.

In the course of his visit to me the Governor-General stated that he intends now to give the usual holiday of fourteen days to the officials of the Central Administration, and that on Monday next, the 20th October, he will proceed on a visit of inspection to the northern cazas of the mountain.

After returning to Beyrout for the reopening of the Government offices at Babda, he will visit the southern districts for the same purpose.

The late Governor-General, Naoum Pasha, sailed this morning by Russian steamer for Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. DRUMMOND HAY.

P.S.—*October 17.* I have just received the French translation, which I beg to inclose herewith, of the speech delivered by Muzaffer Pasha yesterday after the reading of his Firman of appointment.*

D. H.

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* Not printed.

No. 143.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 495.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 8, 1902.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 485 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a despatch received from His Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout respecting the new Governor-General of the Lebanon and his proposed reforms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 143.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 134.)
Sir, *Beyrout, October 23, 1902.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 128 of the 16th instant, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that Mouzaffer Pasha held a reception of Lebanon officials at Baabda on Saturday the 18th, prior to their dispersal for the autumn vacation. His Excellency also presided the same day at a meeting of the Administrative Council, and handed to the members the inclosed statement of reforms and improvements which he intends to introduce during his Governorship of the mountain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 143.

Mouzaffer Pasha's Statement of Reforms and Improvements.

(Translation.)

1. BUILDINGS, improvements, and telephone at Government Office.
2. Delimitation of boundaries between the mountain and the vilayets.
3. Establishment of ports on the Lebanon coast.
4. Measures for the suppression of gambling.
5. Map of every village in each canton and in each district of the Lebanon defining properties with the names of their owners and their cadastres.
6. Measures for the prevention of contraband.
7. Measures for the improvement of Finances.
8. Measures for prohibiting emigration to foreign countries.
9. Reforms in the elections.
10. Monthly publication of Budget.
11. Improvements in the gendarmerie.
12. Reforms in the Tribunals.
13. General rules for pensions and the creation of a fund for the Lebanon Government.
14. Definition of the duties of different Departments and officials.
15. Plans for new roads.
16. Opening of mines.
17. Improvement of trades and handicrafts.
18. Forest improvement.
19. Winter residence for the Governor-General.

No. 144.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 24.)

(No. 500.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 14, 1902.*

IN my despatch No. 319 of the 27th August, 1901, I had the honour to report that as a result of the steps which I had taken in conjunction with my French, Italian, and Russian colleagues with a view to obtaining the promised remission of the arrears of the military exemption tax due by the inhabitants of Zeitoun at the time of their capitulation of 1896, orders had been sent by the Porte to the local authorities of Zeitoun to conform strictly to the Imperial Iradé remitting these arrears. I heard no more of the question till in the spring of this year I, as well as the other Embassies concerned, received a Memorandum from the Porte, dated the 11th May, stating that the Iradé did not order the remission of the arrears, but only the postponement of their collection. Of the four Embassies concerned, the French alone replied by stating that though there might be no Iradé, the Minister for Foreign Affairs had on the 7th May, 1896, declared officially to the First Dragomans of the Embassies that the arrears would be remitted. To this they received an unsatisfactory rejoinder to the effect that the declaration to the Dragomans was that the Porte had decided only to defer collection of the arrears.

In the archives of the Embassy there is no record confirming the French statement; and finding the other Embassies disinclined to take further steps, and feeling that isolated action would not have much chance of success, I let the matter drop.

This autumn, however, Mr. Acting Consul Catoni has reported from Aleppo that the Military Commander at Zeitoun was again taking strong measures to collect the arrears, and despatches to the same effect have been received by the French and Italian Embassies from their Consuls. Inquiries at the Ministry of the Interior have elicited the reply that the Iradé only granted delay in the collection for a certain time; that two years' more grace had been granted, and that these having expired payment is now being required.

The Italian Ambassador informs me that he is willing to follow me in any action I may wish to take; but M. Bapst, the French Chargé d'Affaires, states that, having referred to Paris for instructions, he cannot take any steps until he has received a reply from his Government.

The Russian Chargé d'Affaires has not received any reports from Aleppo, and would not in any case take any steps before the return of M. Zinovieff who is expected very shortly.

If I find, however, that my representations are likely to be supported by any of my colleagues, I propose to bring the matter again under the notice of the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 145.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 356.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 28, 1902.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 500 of the 14th instant, in which you inform me that steps are being taken by the authorities at Zeitoun to collect the arrears of the military exemption tax due from the inhabitants of that place at the time of their capitulation in 1896.

I approve your proposal to bring the matter again to the notice of the Turkish Government if any of your colleagues are prepared to support your representations.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 146.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 1.)

(No. 511.)

Constantinople, November 25, 1902.

My Lord,

I NOTICE that an article which has lately appeared in the "Deutsche Zeitung" respecting German railway projects in Turkey has been quoted and commented on by the "Times," the "Standard," and other leading English newspapers. The article is undoubtedly interesting, but it is, to a great extent, an "intelligent anticipation of events" rather than an account of the actual situation.

The writer calls attention to the importance of the recent visit of Dr. Gwinner, the Director of the "Deutsche Bank," to Constantinople, the main object of which was to arrange for the guarantee for the Bagdad Railway, and, after touching on the difficulties in the way of finding suitable sources of revenue, turns to the question of the fusion under German auspices of the Anatolian, Oriental, and other railways. He points out that at first the new Bagdad Railway must rely for its revenue not so much on goods traffic as on passenger, and especially through-passenger, traffic; and it is therefore intelligible that the "Deutsche Bank," as concessionnaire of the Bagdad undertaking, should desire to secure control of all lines to Constantinople, and of these the Oriental Railway is the most important. The "Deutsche Bank," he continues, is the largest shareholder in the Oriental Railway's Bank of Zurich, which holds four-fifths of the 100,000 shares of the Oriental Railway. The Zurich Bank is also indebted to the "Deutsche Bank" for a sum of 15,000,000 fr., and is also the principal shareholder in the Salonica–Monastir Railway; so that nothing can be more natural than the amalgamation of lines which already have so close financial connection. The author then attempts to show that the Anatolian Railway, which is on the point of completing a well-equipped quay at Haidar-Pacha, may, within a measurable time, be in a position to acquire also the French Quay Company's property in Galata and Stamboul, and thus secure the connecting link between the railways of Anatolia and European Turkey. The "Deutsche Bank," he adds, proposes also to bring the Constantinople–Salonica line within the area of its operations.

The views above expressed as to the reason of Dr. Gwinner's presence in Constantinople are not accurate, for I am in a position to state with some positiveness that his main object was to arrange for the construction of the Konia–Eregli section of the Bagdad Railway, and for the guarantees to be effected to this purpose. The Sultan had previously shown anxiety to see this section begun as soon as possible, but during Dr. Gwinner's visit His Imperial Majesty did not urge the matter, and was even particularly reticent. Possibly this change of attitude may be attributed to the Sultan's disinclination to arouse the enmity of the Russians, who have shown at Yildiz, in unmistakable language, their dislike to the Bagdad Railway scheme, and have gone so far as to state that they would not allow even the surplus of any of the dimes of the vilayets pledged for the Russian war indemnity to be hypothecated to the railway. The Eregli extension does not, however, require the guarantee of these tithes, as it can be served by those of the Bagdad and other unhypothecated vilayets.

Dr. Gwinner's second reason for coming here, apart from his desire to inspect the railway, was to urge on the Sultan the unification of the Public Debt, as the only means of freeing the Turkish Government from the Decree of Mouharrem, and of allowing the surplus Customs revenue to be utilized for the railway guarantee.

As regards the project for the acquisition of the Oriental Railways, the writer of the article is correct as to the relations between the "Deutsche Bank" and the Oriental Railways Bank of Zurich, in so far as that an attempt was made by the former to obtain possession of that line (possibly also of the Constantinople-Salonica Railway); but the scheme fell through, owing to the action of the Austrian Ambassador, which was as follows: About a year ago Baron Calice succeeded, with great difficulty, in persuading the Porte to refer to arbitration the claims (amounting to 60,000 fr.) of the Oriental Railways Company for breaches of contract, &c.; but, learning that the Company contemplated handing over their line to the "Deutsche Bank," he made it a condition of continuing to give them his support that the Company should accept a declaration drawn up by him that they would not cede the railway to a third party. After some hesitation, the Company agreed to the Ambassador's conditions, and the negotiations with the "Deutsche Bank" were broken off.

What may happen in the future is a matter of pure surmise, and although it i possible that at some distant date the project of the amalgamation of the two railway systems may be resumed, I can see no likelihood at present of the results described in the "Deutsche Zeitung's" article.

Whether the independent negotiations have ever been commenced by the "Deutsche Bank" with a view to obtaining possession of the Constantinople–Salonica Railway, I am unable to say, but I do not think it probable, nor do I see what profit is to be derived from the acquisition except in conjunction with the control of the Oriental Railways.

In this connection it is of interest to recall that, during the administration of Dr. von Siemens, the "Deutsche Bank" made overtures for the purchase of the English railway from Smyrna to Aïdin; their proposals, however, were refused by the English Company, and, as I think, rightly, although the Bank offered 15*l.* for the share, which was then standing at about 10*l.*, but has since risen to somewhere near 14*l.*

With regard to the "Deutsche Zeitung's" remarks that the French quays will be eventually acquired by the German group, I have to remark that the works at Haidar-Pacha are practically completed, and will very soon offer formidable competition to the French Quay Company in Galata and Stamboul. This Company is endeavouring, but without the support of the French Government or Embassy, to sell their Concession back to the Turkish Government for a sum of 41,000,000 fr. For the service of a loan which would produce this sum, £T. 110,000 per annum is required, and M. Granet, the energetic Director of the Company in Constantinople, believes that he can enable the Porte to effect such a loan on the security of the revenues from the quays, provided that the Customs Administration and the Agricultural Bank each guarantee £T. 40,000, and that £T. 20,000 of the surplus of the railway guarantee is hypothecated for its service. Unfortunately for the success of this plan, the revenues of both the Customs and the Agricultural Bank are already so encumbered that there remains little or no margin for guaranteeing a public loan as M. Granet desires. Besides this, M. Granet asks that the Ottoman Public Debt shall guarantee these payments, which is, of course, wholly beyond their power.

It is generally believed that the French quays are very imperfectly constructed, and that their foundation may at any time give way, and entail fresh and heavy expenditure. Should this be so, it is possible that a smaller sum than that above mentioned might be accepted, and the Sultan, who seems bent on acquiring the quays under the idea that he would have more control over the departure of political refugees, may achieve his object. In that event, the revenue now produced under French administration would rapidly decline, and the Government be placed in such difficulties that the Anatolian Railway might find their opportunity for becoming possessors of the quays on both sides of the Bosphorus. But whenever the German Company attempts it, they will have to count with the strenuous opposition of Russia, and must be prepared to see the friction already engendered by the Bagdad Railway scheme immensely increased.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No 147.

Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 357.)

Foreign Office, December 1, 1902.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 482 of the 3rd ultimo, transmitting a Report by His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van on a journey which he has recently made in the Bohtan country.

I request that you will convey to Captain Tyrrell my thanks for his Report, which I have read with great interest.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 148.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 8.)

(No. 517.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November 28, 1902.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Damascus, giving an interesting and graphic account of the distressful condition to which the troops in that city have been reduced by the non-payment of salaries.

The Report presents, I believe, an all too faithful description of the state of affairs not only in Damascus but generally in other provinces, and even in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 148.

Consul Richards to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 93.)

Sir, *Damascus, November 13, 1902.*

I HAVE the honour to bring to your Excellency's notice the fact that financial distress, more especially among the officers and men forming the garrison of this city and district, has reached such an acute stage that if something be not done to relieve it very serious consequences may be anticipated.

The lack of money for the payment of the salaries of officials, whether civil or military, is universally felt, but for reasons which will appear below it is on the soldiers that the burden chiefly presses. As is well-known men at the top of the tree, whether in its administrative, executive, judicial, or military branches, can and do take good care of themselves, while their juniors and subordinates are harassed and pinched to a decree which is hardly conceivable.

I should state that during the current financial year, which began on the 1st (14th) March last, the great majority of the employés in the administrative, fiscal, secretarial, and other branches of the Local Government are from three to five months in arrears of pay, while the military officers, with the exception of those of the very highest rank, have received only three months' pay during the period mentioned. The common soldiers, of course, get practically no pay at all, being considered and considering themselves fortunate if they receive an occasional present of 5 or 10 piastres per man at Bairam.

It should be remembered, however, that nearly all civil employés have opportunities of making illicit additions to their incomes which military men do not enjoy, so that the latter, if unpaid, feel the pinch of poverty long before the civilians who by levying toll on all and sundry who have, either directly or indirectly, only need of their services, manage to "scrape along." The officer has, it is true, his rations, which should keep him beyond the reach of starvation, but of late even this resource has failed him to a considerable extent, a reduction of 35 per cent. on rations having been made during the last month or two.

I am informed on good authority that sometimes for two or three days together the officers receive no rations at all, and even the men are suffering from a considerable reduction of their food, especially in the matter of clarified butter, known as "Yagh" in Turkish and "Semn" in Arabic ("Ghee" is Hindustanee), which, as your Excellency is aware, is used for cooking every kind of food. I hear that at present only 14 rottols (about 80 lbs.) of "Semn" are served out daily to the whole of the Damascus garrison, numbering some 3,200 men. This works out at $6\frac{2}{5}$ drachms (avoirdupois) per man, which is, of course, a perfect mockery. When it is considered what an important rôle this clarified "butter" plays in all Oriental cookery it will be readily understood how serious a matter is its absence, or, what almost amounts to the same thing, its presence in such infinitesimal doses.

The case of the officers is, however, even more worthy of pity than that of the men, because the latter, poor wretches! have no appearances to keep up, and so long

as their bodies are more or less covered—many of them can hardly be said to be clothed—and fed—even though it be insufficiently—they are apparently content to drag on from day to day, awaiting the expiration of their time of service. The officers, on the other hand, have to keep their uniforms smart, and make a certain show before the world, which without pay and on insufficient rations it is almost impossible for them to do. Moreover, many of them have a wife and children to support, whereas most of the private soldiers are unmarried men, and even those who have families have the consolation of knowing that the latter, being generally peasants, can, in the absence of the head of the family, live by the soil from which they are sprung.

The cruel straits to which the officers are reduced may be illustrated by three examples which have lately been brought to my notice, and of the truth of which I am positively assured:—

A few weeks ago a Captain in a foot regiment applied to the Defterdar for the payment of the arrears due to him, and was solemnly promised by that official that he should be paid on the following day. On his presenting himself, however, in the Defterdar's office at the time appointed the latter assured him that, unfortunately, he could not perform his promise as there was no money in the chest. Thereupon the officer snatched up a silver inkstand lying on the table at which the Defterdar was sitting and ran off with it. He took it to a silversmith in the town and sold it for 300 piastres. He was of course arrested and taken before the Mushir (General Commanding this Army Corps), who reproached him vehemently for the commission of so barefaced a theft. The Captain replied that he had a wife and five children who were starving, and to feed whom he was prepared, if necessary, to take the very clothes off the Defterdar's back. The man was evidently desperate and careless of consequences. The inkstand was recovered from the silversmith, and the Captain was put under arrest for twenty-four hours—a very lenient punishment under ordinary circumstances, but considered sufficient in this particular case.

The second case is that of a Major who in his leisure moments has been working in a bakery in order to earn a few piastres to save himself from something near akin to starvation.

The other instance of distress reported to me (by an eye-witness) was that of two officers who went to a small restaurant in the city and ate a very hearty meal, at the conclusion of which they told the owner of the shop who asked for payment that they had not a penny in the world; they were very hungry men, who could devise no other means of satisfying the cravings of appetite, and if he liked he might report them to the Mushir; whereupon they walked off. The restaurateur, out of sheer pity, took no action whatever.

I also hear that the cavalry and artillery horses here have been put on very short rations, and the consequence is many of the poor beasts have died of overwork, aggravated by semi-starvation.

There is a great deal of sickness among the troops. The military hospital being full to overflowing, those who can no longer be accommodated therein have been transferred to the neighbouring guardhouse, which now serves as a sort of annex to the hospital. There are over 400 patients in the two buildings, an enormous percentage on, say, 4,000 troops.

It may be asked how it is that the Mushir does not address energetic remonstrances to Constantinople pointing out the possibly dangerous consequences of exasperating beyond endurance a whole class of faithful servants of the State. I am informed that he has done so, but to no purpose. I am even assured that, although he has framed and sent to the capital an estimate showing the irreducible minimum of the expenses incurred in paying, clothing, and feeding the Vth Army Corps, his report, though approved at the Seraskerate, has not met with the approbation of the "Palace," which sent it back with an order that the figures should be reduced still more. This manœuvre was repeated two or three times, until the "irreducible minimum" was cut down by one-half.

Quite recently some 600 men who had served their time in the ranks of the "Nizam" received, on disbandment, two months' pay out of twelve months of arrears due. It was said at the time that they were in a most discontented, not to say riotous, mood, and that serious trouble was likely to come of it. They appealed to the Vali, who consulted with the Mushir on the subject, the advice of the former being that a tremendous effort should be made to pay the men something more. It was pointed out to the Vali, however, that there was no more money forthcoming, and so

the matter ended, as it usually does in this country, by the men dispersing reluctantly and grumblingly to their respective homes. There would seem to be no limit to the patience and endurance of the Turkish soldier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 149.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 8.)

(No. 520.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 29, 1902.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 495 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a despatch received from His Majesty's Consul-General at Beirut reporting changes of officials effected by Mouzaffer Pasha, the new Governor-General of the Lebanon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 149.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 147.)
Sir, *Beirut, November 20, 1902.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 140 of the 5th instant, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that Mouzaffer Pasha returned here on the 13th from his tour in the Shouf, and immediately after his arrival dismissed the Druse Kaïmakam, Emir Shekib Arslan, who was hastily appointed by Naoum Pasha last summer on the resignation of Emir Mustapha Arslan, as reported in my despatch No. 103 of the 15th August last. He also removed from office two Mudirs for disobedience to orders regarding political demonstrations during his tour.

A Druse member of the Council of Administration, Hamad Bey Hamady, was appointed Acting Kaïmakam in the place of Emir Shekib.

The latter and his uncle, the ex-Kaïmakam, have, I understand, appealed to the Sheikh-ul-Islam for protection as loyal "Moslem" subjects of the Sultan, and begging him to interfere on their behalf and to rescue the Druse districts from falling under foreign influence by preventing the appointment of a Kaïmakam from the Djumblad family, who are represented by the petitioners as being agents of British and traitors to the Government.

A Memorial was also forwarded to the Mushir at Damascus containing about fifty seals, with several names of distinguished Moslem families who have no connection whatever with the Lebanon, and I am informed on good authority that many of the seals are spurious.

Mouzaffer Pasha is well aware of these proceedings and has taken effective measures to check the agitation and preserve order in the Druse districts. His Excellency will start again about the 23rd instant for the central Kaïmakamliks of Meten and Zahleh.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 150.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 8.)

(No. 521. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 29, 1902.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Damascus, respecting Turkish surmises as to the real political objects of the Hedjaz Railway.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 150.

Consul Richards to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No 98. Confidential.)
Sir, *Damascus, November 19, 1902.*

I HAVE been somewhat struck lately by the growing tendency to call in question the utility of the construction of the Hedjaz Railway, except on the supposition that it is being made exclusively for strategical and political purposes, the possibility of an attack on the holy cities of Islam, and the necessity for the dispatch of large bodies of troops to their relief, being, logically and arguably, the only justification for so gigantic and costly an undertaking. I understand that in certain military circles it is more or less openly insinuated that England is the only Power which may, with justice and a show of probability, be suspected of harbouring designs, to frustrate which, it is said, this railway is now being made! In support of this argument attention is called to the well-known fact that the Mahommedan subjects of His Britannic Majesty are five or six times as numerous as those of the Sultan; to the recent action of His Majesty's Government with reference to Koweit; to the Aden territory boundary dispute, the nature of which is not clearly understood here, and finally, to the large number of Indian pilgrims who go yearly to Mecca and Medina and the existence of a very large resident Indian colony in the former city itself.

It is pointed out that the Sultan would rather lose all the rest of his Empire put together than forfeit his right to the guardianship of the holy cities on which his claim to the title of Commander of the Faithful (Emir-el-Mumenin)—(so held, though erroneously, by the general public) largely depends.

These considerations, or at least some of them, are trite and commonplace enough in the European press, but I was not aware till lately that they were appreciated and discussed in certain official and military circles here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 151.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 8.)

(No. 526.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 1, 1902.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a despatch received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van reporting on the present state of Nestorian affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 151.

Vice-Consul Tyrrell to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 25.)
Sir, *Bashkala, November 6, 1902.*

I HAVE the honour to report that during my journey, sanctioned by your Excellency's telegram of the 20th ultimo, I have visited Kochannes. Peace has been concluded between the Nestorian Ashirets and the various Kurds with whom they have been at enmity for so long.

As your Excellency is aware, the Vali had been trying to arrange this for some time, but nothing had come of his efforts, chiefly owing to the misrepresentations of the Kurds of Julamerk and to Hamze Bey, late Acting Kaïmakam there, who was entirely in their hands. Various officials sent down to investigate appear to have been bribed by the Julamerk Kurds. Before leaving Van I heard that Shekir Agha,

chief of the greater portion of the large Hartoshi tribe, had been appointed Mufettish to try and settle the affair. This man, though his conduct has not always been blameless, has shown himself very friendly to English Consuls, and professes great admiration for Englishmen. So, having an opportunity of communicating with him, I took occasion to point out to him the necessity of a peace on fair terms being arranged this time, told him I was coming to Kochannes, and hoped that he would meet me there with the parties to the peace agreed as to terms.

On arrival there I found that this had been carried out, with the help of the new Acting Kaïmakam, Mehmed Effendi, whom the Vali had sent from Van, with, I believe, instructions to undo the mischief caused by Hamze Bey. Shekir Agha's immense influence among the Kurds had brought in the Piyanis men, as well as the sections of the Hartoshi concerned. (Piyanis is the village in Lewin which the Nestorians of Upper Tiyari had raided, and theirs was the principal quarrel.) The Julamerk men, finding themselves left by the other Kurds, and fearing to remain alone at open enmity, arrived the next morning, and begged to be included in the peace. The peace was drawn up and signed on the 1st instant by Malik Ismaïl, Chief of Upper Tiyari, the principal men of that district, of Julamerk, and of the Hartoshi tribes concerned, and attested by the signatures of Mar Shimun, Shekir Agha, and Mehmed Effendi. By it each side agrees to give back all the stolen sheep in their possession, and the guns treacherously taken from the Tiyari men by soldiers after the Piyanis raid are to be restored.

Unfortunately, 7,000 of the Nestorians' sheep are now in the plain of Mosul, and in Kurdish winter quarters, and cannot be restored till the summer. Most of these are in the hands of the Zshiriki, over whom Shekir Agha's influence is doubtful, and, though the Government has undertaken to get these back, using soldiers if necessary, there is every chance of difficulties arising, and of the terms of the Treaty being evaded. However, the Nestorians profess themselves very well satisfied, and Mar Shimun is very hopeful for the future, and quite cheerful about it.

That a peace of any sort has been arranged is certainly a good thing, and people on both sides will now be able to move freely about the country, and communication among the scattered Nestorian Ashirets may be resumed.

Malik Ismaïl has not been able to visit Mar Shimun for five years, owing to the intervention of hostile Kurds.

Shekir Agha deserves well of the Government for having brought about this peace. He is very anxious to be allowed to raise Hamidie regiments, and to become their Mir Alai, complaining that lesser Chiefs have been given Government titles because they are Hamidie, while he has been left out.

There still remain outstanding the quarrels between Julamerk and Kochannes about boundaries and grazing rights, and the Julamerk Kurds have not yet been punished for having beaten Mar Shimun's servants last July. The question of the three mules they stole from Mar Shimun last June is being settled by the Kaïmakam

In September a bad outrage occurred at Khannanes, a Nestorian village near Julamerk, when a Kurd of that place entered and defiled their church, so that they say they cannot now use it, and tore up the Bibles and sacred books. The wretched inhabitants are reduced to the verge of starvation by the Julamerk Kurds, who have seized their fields, and made them work in them for nothing, taking the produce for themselves. A young man called Muhammad is the worst of their oppressors, and he also interferes with their women. On their complaining of his conduct to his father, he defiled their church in revenge, and has now threatened to kill, when they return, the men who came to inform Mar Shimun, so that they are afraid to return to their village.

The feuds between Lower Tiyari and the Mira of Berwar and the neighbouring Kurdish tribes have not yet been settled. These districts are in the Vilayet of Mosul, and the Government there has made attempts to bring them to a conclusion, but, so far, without success.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. E. TYRRELL, *Captain*,
His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van.

No. 152.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 22.)

(No. 549.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 17, 1902.

HIS Majesty's Vice-Consul at Bitlis reported to me on the 9th September last a Kurdish Vendetta quarrel in his district which he thought might lead to serious trouble.

In the spring of last year a certain Jafar, of the village of Simek, murdered another Kurd at Vanik. Several Armenians of the latter village were kept under arrest until one of them denounced Jafar, who killed the Armenian for having betrayed him.

Early in September Jafar was shot by a friend of his first victim, and is now lying wounded in the Bitlis prison, but as he is a nephew of Faris Agha, a Kurdish notable, whose trial and release on bail were reported to me at the time, it is feared that Faris or his men will avenge the wounded murderer. Meanwhile an Armenian revolutionist, named Armenak, had arrived from Russia and had taken over the leadership of Autranig's band, with whom he moves about the neighbourhood of Mount Nemrud, between Van and the Mush plain, and this band is credited with designs against the life of Faris Agha. It is to be feared that the disorders which followed the murder of Sherif Agha, of Mush, would probably be repeated if Faris were to fall by the hand of an Armenian, and Mr. Freeman sees no reason to suppose that the Vali would act otherwise than he did last year.

Mr. Vice-Consul Freeman now reports, by telegraph, that he hears, from an apparently trustworthy source, that about a month ago fifteen Armenian revolutionaries, fully armed, came to Sassun from Russia or Persia viâ Van. They are said to include Armenak and his son Serkis (who has a United States' passport), and to be under the leadership of one Kevork, from Russia. Their object seems to be to rally the Armenians with a view to some exploit in the spring.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 153.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 30.)

(No. 562.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 23, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 500 of the 14th ultimo respecting the reported intention of the authorities to collect the arrears of taxation due by the inhabitants of Zeitoun, I have the honour to report that I have again brought the matter to the notice of the Sublime Porte, and that the Italian Ambassador has also made representations on the subject.

I may add that, according to a report received by His Majesty's Consul at Aleppo from a missionary who has recently visited Zeitoun, the condition of the inhabitants is fairly satisfactory, and the reverend gentleman makes no mention of complaints of the collection of the arrears.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.